

# HORSE & HOUND<sup>®</sup>

26 NOVEMBER 2015 EVERY THURSDAY

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with Brookleigh

## Mothers & daughters

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### NEWS

Obesity: 'the silent torturer'

### EVENTING

Chris Burton's 3 exercises for seeing a stride

### SHOWJUMPING

Graham Fletcher: 'BS's worst mistake in decades'

### HUNTING

With Otis Ferry at the South Shropshire



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Photographer Selene Scarsi

*Bolsan B ridden by Erin Williams, highest placed Junior on the British Team at the Junior Europeans in Vidauban.*

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# This week

26 November

*'I freely admit that the best of my fun, I owe it to horse and hound'*

Whyte-Melville 1821-1878



Excitement among gentle giants: Clydesdales thrill the crowds at Exeter racecourse



Derby winner Golden Horn retires to stud



Page 32: The French horse whisperer



Page 76: Ciara Fry (wife of trainer Harry) with the winning Rock On Ruby and daughter... Ruby

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For more details, see page 79

Cover picture by Jon Stroud Media  
Mary and Emily King with Brookleigh



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*AP said his legs had never ached so much in 20 years of racing as after 30 minutes of dressage'*

Richard Johnson **Page 81**

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# Obesity: 'a silent killer'

With horses becoming increasingly heavier, what can be done? Lucy Elder reports

Industry experts are warning that a rise in obesity is a real and significant threat to the health of Britain's equines.

The 2015 National Equine Health Survey (NEHS) recorded 23% of horses and ponies in the UK as overweight – up from 16.9% in 2014 and 7.8% in 2013.

As in humans, too much weight can increase the risk of serious and life-threatening conditions for horses.

Dr Sue Dyson, from the Animal Health Trust, described obesity as "a potential silent torturer" at the World Horse Welfare

conference this month (10 November).

She warned there is a common misconception about what constitutes a healthy weight and urged vets to be clearer.

"We must be direct and tell people when their horses are too fat," she said.

"There has to be global education – not just the lay person but the veterinary professional as well. We have to educate owners, trainers and judges."

She said she now sends around an eighth of her equine clients home with diet plans.

Laminitis in horses not usually susceptible to the condition and increased risk of injury and arthritis are areas of particular concern to Dr Dyson.

"Not only does increased body load potentially exacerbate the clinical signs of osteoarthritis, we also know that through the metabolism of fat, there are chemical mediators that can actually enhance the osteoarthritic process," she added.

"You do not see obese racehorses, elite endurance horses, elite event horses or professional polo ponies. However, we do see obese show ponies, dressage horses and lower-level competition horses."

Other recent studies also show excess weight is a problem for British equines.

Out of 792 veterinary-registered horses in Great Britain, 31.2% were overweight

(Robin et al, 2015) and in 158 horses studied in the East Midlands, 20.6% were too fat (Stephenson et al, 2014).

Dr Pat Harris, from the Waltham Equine Studies group, is a European veterinary specialist in equine nutrition.

"Obesity is a problem, particularly in our leisure and pleasure horse population," she told *H&H*. "All the work that we are doing and our surveys show us that."

However, the NEHS recorded the number of owners using weight tapes increased from 50% in 2014 to 64% this year – perhaps showing an increased awareness.

It also found that almost all owners and keepers of overweight equines took steps to manage their horse's weight.

## What is causing it?

OVER-RUGGING, the human obesity crisis, lack of exercise and "fashion" are among the causes for fat horses, said Dr Dyson.

Dr Harris added that other factors, such as the nutrient content of many equine pastures and perhaps even selection over the years towards good doers, could be resulting in the increase of recorded cases.

Raised awareness coupled with owners being more honest about their animal's body condition could also be to blame, she added.

Sam Chubbock, from World Horse

## MEASURING WEIGHT AND CONDITION

- THE British Horse Society has an easy-to-use body condition score index (devised by Carroll and Huntingdon in 1988) available on its website. This uses a numeric grading system from zero (emaciated) to five (obese)

For more information, visit: [www.bhs.org.uk/welfare-and-care/free-leaflets](http://www.bhs.org.uk/welfare-and-care/free-leaflets)

- Equine weighbridges
- Weight tapes, although not as accurate as scales, can help owners monitor changes in their horse's weight





## CASE STUDY

### He lost 28 stone

DOLLAR, a 14hh gelding, arrived at World Horse Welfare's Penny Farm centre when very overweight, suffering from laminitis and intermittent lameness.

Over nine months of rehabilitation, Dollar lost 28 stone to reach a healthy weight.

"This figure often shocks people, as it can be very difficult to judge how much extra weight a horse is carrying," Ms Chubbock said.

"To many people, Dollar only appears slightly overweight initially, so it comes as a real shock to discover that his excess weight is equivalent to carrying two or more adults 24 hours a day."

Once he had lost the weight, he was no longer lame and his laminitis was brought under control.



Welfare, agreed that much of the evidence is based on owner questionnaires rather than veterinary diagnosis.

"Even so, the results of this year's NEHS make alarming reading," she told *H&H*.

"The problem of excess weight is too prevalent and can be as much of a welfare concern as being significantly underweight."

### What can be done?

"WORRYINGLY we are seeing an increasing number of concerns relating to overweight or obese horses," said Gemma Stanford of the British Horse Society.

World Horse Welfare has a series of "right weight" materials on its website.

"We also need to give owners the confidence to take the necessary steps in managing their horse's weight, which can be made very difficult due to the peer pressure often experienced in livery yard situations," added Ms Chubbock.

"If all horses on a yard are grazing on a lush field of grass, in thick rugs – it makes it very difficult for one owner to strip graze their horse or leave it unrugged."

Rugged horses do not need to use as much energy to keep them warm, so this can be stored as fat instead.

Steps such as soaking hay, using small-holed hay nets, minimal energy-providing concentrate feeds, no treats, more exercise and removing rugs can all help.

Dr Harris added that prevention is better than care and that managing weight loss involves more than just reducing energy intake – horses need the right quality protein, vitamin and mineral support. Any weight loss programmes also have to take into account that horses are trickle feeders

and cannot be left for long periods without forage.

"There may be an increase in awareness, but there needs to be even more," said Dr Harris. "We need to encourage all areas of the industry to promote a lower body condition score as being positive."

**H&H advises owners to speak to your vet or nutritionist if you have concerns.**

## FACTS AND FIGURES

24.9%  
of people in the UK  
are now obese

TRIPLE  
the amount by which human obesity  
has increased in the past 30 years

23%  
OF EQUINES  
IN THE UK ARE OVER-  
WEIGHT (NEHS)

64%  
of horse owners now  
use weight tapes



### DON LOREAN

The 15-year-old Oldenburg gelding owned by Alexandra Barbançon Mestre has been sold to Osamu Kitai, the father of Japanese grand prix rider Yuko Kitai, as her 2016 Rio Olympic hope. He was formerly trained by Fiona Bigwood.



### RED CADEAUX

Trainer Ed Dunlop's popular nine-year-old has been put down after "irreversible" complications due to surgery on the leg he injured during the Melbourne Cup. Until last week, it was hoped the gelding would be retired in Australia.



### JOHNSON

Dressage rider Hans Peter Minderhoud's European championship bronze medal winning-partner, Johnson, has been added to the NOP team – which financially supports Dutch horses to prevent them from being sold abroad.



### VALEGRO

Carl Hester denied rumours that Valegro would be retired after Rio 2016, despite what Charlotte Dujardin told the BBC. Carl told *H&H* that if the 13-year-old dual Olympic gold medal-winner is to be retired at all in 2016 it would be at Olympia.



### TEAFORTHREE

Popular staying chaser Teaforthree has been retired. The 11-year-old gelding was a first Cheltenham Festival winner for trainer Rebecca Curtis. In 2013 he was runner up in the Welsh National and third in the Grand National.



# Team of three – a welfare concern?

Discussions on how to make equestrianism more public-friendly continue, but there are mixed views.  
Amy Mathieson reports



Eventing could be renamed 'equestrian triathlon'

**R**IDERS and industry figures are worried that limiting an eventing team to three members could have welfare implications for horses.

There are concerns that a lack of a discard score could also affect safety for riders, with tired horses being pushed on to complete, which could lead to falls.

"It would be very tough," Olympic rider Mary King told *H&H*, "both to be selected and also for welfare and safety reasons."

The idea was frowned upon by several nations – including Britain, Germany, Holland and the USA – when the proposal was put forward at the FEI general assembly earlier this month (12 November).

"Harmonising" Olympic equestrian sport with a cap of three team members across the three disciplines has the aim of increasing the number of nations competing at the Games.

Separating individual and team events

and removing team drop scores were also put forward in the proposal.

Although three in a team would be across the board, eventing would be most heavily affected.

In a proposal by the European Equestrian Federation (news, 12 November) a group led by Mike Etherington-Smith suggested that the team competition ran in CIC format – dressage taking place on one day, the showjumping phase as it is now and the cross-country to be between eight and 10 minutes long to ensure time is influential.

The medals come after the team cross-country, with the top 20/25 going through to a final showjumping decider for individual honours.

Regarding numbers, the EEF proposed

four per team with three to count.

"Horse welfare is taken care of, the time required for the two medal competitions is a maximum of three and a half to four days although if it can be condensed into three days this would be better, and the logistical issues are manageable and do not interfere with the pure dressage and jumping competitions," read the proposal.

However, the FEI proposal at the general assembly stated that a CCI format would still be followed, but with the dressage

phase condensed to a single day using a shorter five-minute dressage test.

The traditional order of dressage, cross-country and showjumping would be kept to "retain the essence of the discipline, protect horse welfare and ensure reliable,

"With three in a team it would be tough to be selected. It could have welfare implications"

Mary King



## COMMENT

**Pippa Roome**  
H&H eventing editor



**T**EAMS of three is detrimental to horse welfare because riders, vets and team officials will be more inclined to push a horse to complete if there is no discard score, whether that means continuing on a tired horse across country — which is also a safety concern — or trying to get an unsound horse through the final trot-up.

“From a sport point of view, teams of three worries me because it rewards mediocrity. A team with three average or even poor completions would win a medal over one with two great results and an unlucky fall. That doesn’t seem right.”

immediate results”.

The individual showjumping phase would be used as the qualifier for the top six or seven teams to go through to the team final, with the potential of having all three team members in the arena together, jumping one after another, so that a team result would be instantly available.

### Addressing Agenda 2020

THE suggestion came from the FEI eventing committee’s proposals to fall in line with the Olympic Agenda 2020 – to entice a new audience to the sport.

“Agenda 2020 is a driving force in this process, but even prior to that we already knew that changes needed to be made to our formats and the presentation of our sport,” said FEI president Ingmar De Vos.

“But why do we want to change our formats and the way our sport is presented? The answer is simple – because we want to remain relevant in today’s ever-changing sporting landscape and gain the exposure and visibility our sport deserves.

“We need to take advantage of the excitement and drama of our sport, make it easier to understand, attract young and larger audiences, be broadcast friendly and see more nations represented.”

### Sparking debate

THE British Eventing (BE) Olympic Agenda 2020 working group was formed in July, consisting of all the key stakeholders in the sport including organisers, riders and owners, and is meeting next week (2 December).

David Holmes of BE told *H&H*: “The working group first met on 29 July and produced a paper outlining the various

options that the group felt were possible. In looking at these options the group considered carefully the strengths and weaknesses of each against the headings of format – CCI, CIC, universality, presentation and cost, all of which are key for the Agenda.

“Based on our discussions at our first working group meeting, and also on the feedback from members of the working group immediately prior to the FEI general assembly, it was felt much further discussion and consultation, both in Great Britain and with other national federations involved in eventing, was required over the proposed three rider team – ie, no drop score.”

Eventer Alex Hua Tian said having only three riders for the big team nations at the Olympics is “going to be tough, especially without the drop score”.

“It will certainly change the dynamics of team selection and will make the cross-country phase more influential without making it more difficult,” he said.

Eventer Bruce Haskell told *H&H* that many riders oppose the three-in-a-team idea and it could be a horse welfare issue.

“Once this is all ironed out, though, we all have to get behind one concept and make it work,” he said.

### Name change?

A new name – “equestrian triathlon” – was also suggested to improve understanding of the sport for a mainstream audience.

“I don’t have a problem with a name change, but they’d be better off simplifying confusing things like CIC and CCI first,” said eventer Paul Tapner when the idea was first mooted in April.

Detailed format changes based on feedback from the session will be taken to the FEI sport forum in April, and they will be voted on at next year’s general assembly.

• **For more on making the sport accessible see Alice Collins’ comment, p68.**



Three rather than four people on a team, plus no discard score, would pile on the pressure, say riders



### BEN HOBDAY

The British event rider is in remission from cancer. Ben was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin Lymphoma at the end of June and has been undergoing treatment in hospital in Newcastle. He told *H&H* that he is feeling “very relieved”.



### WILLIAM FOX-PITT

Olympic eventer William is continuing his rehabilitation at home in Dorset after being discharged from hospital. He suffered a head trauma when he fell during the cross-country at Le Lion d’Angers on 17 October.



### ROSIE ABBOTT

The 14-year-old rider from Coventry has received a BBC Radio 1 award for her achievements. Rosie was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour in 2012 and was named as a Radio 1 teen hero for her courage and fundraising efforts.



### AP MCCOY

Twenty-time National Hunt champion jockey AP has walked away unscathed from a car crash (Wednesday, 18 November). He was involved in a three-car pile up on the M4 between Hungerford and Swindon.



### LIBBY LAW

The Australian equestrian photographer is in hospital in Melbourne following a rollerblading accident. Libby was in the country for Adelaide CCI4\*. She cracked her skull and was under sedation but is now making progress.





## Eventing

### New league for young eventers launched

A new points league has been launched for young event riders.

British Eventing (BE) and the National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA) have started the scheme for registered riders competing from BE80(T) to novice level.

The NSEA will calculate BE or foundation points collected by each horse and rider combination on a monthly basis.

BE's Chris Farr said that the original NSEA league in 2011 and 2012 did not get off the ground due to "administrative limitations".

"Both organisations are confident that our systems are now able to align and offer efficient monitoring and updates of the league," he added.

Prizes will include training vouchers and BE membership.

• **For more information, visit:**  
[www.nsea.org.uk](http://www.nsea.org.uk)

## Veterinary

### Herbal company contacted by VMD

A maker of herbal creams, washes and sprays for horses has removed all medicinal claims from its website after being contacted by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD).

Botanica International, based in Co. Down, was issued with an improvement notice by the VMD in July and told to amend similar medicinal claims found in its marketing and on social media.

The company's founder Sean Cooney said the VMD was objecting to testimonials from "satisfied customers about the beneficial effects of using Botanica products".

He said the Botanica website has been adjusted to meet all the government agency's requirements.

## Eventing

### Brit steps closer to 4\* record



BRITAIN'S Alice Dunsdon, 29, is one step closer to becoming the first event rider to complete all the world's four-stars on the same horse after finishing 16th at Adelaide last week (19-22 November), writes *Pippa Roome*.

Alice's ride Fernhill Present went into quarantine in Newmarket eight weeks ago. They flew to Australia on 15 October, before a further two weeks in quarantine in Sydney, during which "Hilly" could not be ridden.

"The trip's had its ups and downs – I was at my lowest when I received the news of my beloved dog Bertie passing away," said Alice. "I had to dig deep and stay focused. My groom Jenny McKibben and boyfriend Dave Cullen were brilliant at staying strong for me."

Alice was hospitalised with a severe stomach upset during the competition.

"I'm still not 100%, but I'm feeling a lot better," she said on Monday (23 November). "Hilly certainly looked after me on cross-country day."

Alice is the first to have taken a horse from the northern hemisphere to Adelaide.

"I've been overwhelmed by the support – thank you for everyone's words," she said.

Alice has already completed Pau, Burghley, Luhmühlen and Kentucky CCI4\*s, leaving just Badminton to conquer.

"Hilly will have a holiday and entering Badminton 2016 is the aim – and to complete a dream come true – but it depends how he recovers from this trip," she said. "I'm in no rush to complete all six four-stars with him and his wellbeing is my priority."

• **Read Alice's blogs:** [www.horseandhound.co.uk/author/alice-dunsdon](http://www.horseandhound.co.uk/author/alice-dunsdon)

## Doping

### Ban for 'catch ride' jumper

A Venezuelan showjumping owner-rider, who lent his horse to a fellow rider, and his long-time American vet have been banned for doping, writes *Pippa Cuckson*.

Fabio Mazzarella, owner of Up Date 2, and Dr William Yerkes – a regular FEI treatment vet – were suspended for 19 months and two years respectively after the horse tested positive for the banned steroid stanozolol at the San Giovanni CSI in Italy in August 2014.

Dr Yerkes admitted

administering the steroid-containing product Stargate to treat a liver and kidney problem in May 2014.

He failed to tell Mr Mazzarella, who later broke his collarbone and passed the ride at San Giovanni to the Argentinian rider, Mariano Ossa.

The FEI Tribunal did not accept that Ossa bore no responsibility, despite being Up Date 2's "catch" rider, but reduced his automatic two-year ban by five months after Mr Ossa provided

information about Mr Mazzarella and Dr Yerkes.

Meanwhile Indian endurance vet Dr Syed Kamaal will be disciplined in hindsight for a case dating back to February 2012.

He admitting injecting Fustex, known to contain banned substances, to Glenmorgan, the ride of Sheikh Hazza bin Sultan bin Zayed Al Nahyan at Al Wathba CEI in Abu Dhabi. Sheikh Hazza has already served an 18-month suspension.



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## Veterinary

## Mental health help for vets launched

A series of mental health awareness courses are being trialled by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' Mind Matters Initiative (MMI) during the next month.

The MMI was launched last December and aims to make a difference to those in the profession struggling with mental health issues (news, 26 February).

There are particular issues within the veterinary industry, with elevated rates of suicide compared with the population at large, and patterns of distress, anxiety and depression.

The training aims to help individuals better understand the signs of mental ill-health, and know how to communicate with people they are concerned about.

● **For more information visit [www.rcvs.org.uk/mindmattersevents](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/mindmattersevents)**

## Showjumping

## Olympia organisers ease sale fears

OLYMPIA Exhibition Centre could be up for sale, but organisers have told *H&H* that the horse show is not currently under threat.

The venue, in West London, is reportedly on the market for £300m.

The centre is owned by property company Capital & Counties (Capco), which took control five years ago.

"We understand that Capco are potentially going to put the Olympia exhibition halls on the market," Jo Peck from HPower, which organises the London International Horse Show, told *H&H*. "Whoever the owner is, the halls will continue to be exhibition halls and we are looking forward to holding many more successful Olympia Horse Shows in this outstanding building."

## Welfare

## Defra publishes fly-grazing advice

NEW guidance for landowners to deal with fly-grazed horses has been issued by Defra.

The Control of Horses Act 2015 came into force on 26 May and enables local authorities, freeholders and occupiers to deal better with the problem of horses which are unlawfully present on land, whether they have strayed or been placed there deliberately.

Tim Bonner, of the Countryside Alliance, said: "I hope the new guidance will allow the law to be used effectively and help improve the welfare of neglected horses."

● **Visit: [www.newc.co.uk](http://www.newc.co.uk)**

## Eventing

## Safety clips tested by BE

BRITISH EVENTING (BE) course-designers might have another tool in their safety armoury from next season with news that the MIM clip – a type of frangible device – underwent testing at Badminton on 4 November, writes *Ellie Hughes*.

The deformable technology, the brainchild of Swedish inventor Mats Bjornetun, has already been widely used internationally, but despite being tested and gaining FEI approval in 2012 it has taken until now for BE to follow suit.

Mr Bjornetun, told *H&H* he was "delighted" that BE had embraced his invention and looked forward to "working closely" with the governing body in the future.

"It paves the way for the technology to be used on all sorts of different fences," he said.

While the frangible pin, which has been used on British courses since 2002, is only effective on post and rail obstacles, the MIM clip allows other jumps, such as tables, gates and arrowheads, to collapse when hit with the sort of force that might otherwise cause a rotational fall – the type which most commonly causes a rider fatality.

The clip's design also means that a fence can be rebuilt in a matter of seconds, reducing the need for lengthy hold-ups.

BE's safety officer Jonathan Clissold told *H&H*: "Tests were carried out on three types of fences fitted with MIM clips using the BE test pendulum and a full report will be



submitted to the risk management committee, which will then make a recommendation about their use on BE courses."

Burghley and Luhmühlen course-designer Mark Phillips is an advocate of MIM technology. He used a safety clip on the back of a triple brush fence at the German CCI4\* earlier this year.

"It's about being able to use the right [frangible] device in the right place," he said at the time.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Pammy Hutton, p28

'My motherly instincts take over and I just want to throw up'

## OBITUARIES



## HENRY WELTON

THE co-founder of Tower Farm Saddlers died in Warwickshire on 25 October. He had a brain tumour for two years. Henry and his wife Prue set up the business 45 years ago. They also ran a riding school and were involved in the North Warwickshire Branch of the Pony Club for many years.

## LEON MELCHIOR

THE founder of the Zangersheide Stud in Belgium died on 11 November aged 88. During his showjumping career he competed on a number of Nations Cup teams for the Netherlands. He was a breeder of many elite horses including Ratina Z, who won individual gold with Ludger Beerbaum at the 1992 Olympics.

## SEBASTIAN DE FERRANTI

THE life president of Cheshire Polo Club died on 15 October at the age of 88.

A keen polo player, his Kerfield House team won the 1968 Cowdray Park Challenge Cup. He leaves his wife Gilly and three children.

Sebastian also enjoyed carriage driving and owned Henbury Hall – a former driving venue.

## FRANK KEAT

THE 80-year-old died at Bodmin Community Hospital on 2 November.

Days before, nurses from the Anchor Ward arranged for the cancer patient's horse Early Morn to visit the hospital.

Members of the Cornish equestrian community rode to his funeral, which took place on 7 November.





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## ▲ EXMOOR PONIES

Monsieur Chapeau, an Exmoor pony rescued as a foal, appeared on ITV's *This Morning* with his owner, Dawn Westcott, and equine pal Farleywater Lady Stumpkin Pumpkin. On their way out of the London studios, the group met A-listers former *Pussycat Doll* Nicole Scherzinger.



## ▲ EQUESTRIAN ART

A rare Ming dynasty jade horse has sold at auction for £63,440. The 17th-century model was part of a collection being auctioned in Dorset.

## ▲ WAR HORSE



Stud owner Lucy Procter came to the rescue of *War Horse*'s Joey on 7 November. The life-size horse puppet was stranded on route to Sherborne Abbey after the lorry it had been travelling in broke down. Lucy loaded Joey into her own horsebox and delivered him safely to the abbey.

## ▲ NIAL HANNITY

The 36-year-old former jockey turned Racing UK presenter won the 2015 Jockeys Employment and Training Scheme Richard Davis Award. He was presented with his £3,000 prize by AP McCoy on 15 November at Cheltenham.

## GOOD WEEK BAD WEEK

## ▼ JASON PRIESTLEY

The Canadian-American actor, famous for his role in *Beverly Hills, 90210*, fell off a horse on the set of his new television series *The Code*. He suffered concussion and had to rest for a few days.



## ▼ RACING

British Horseracing Authority chairman Steve Harman has said that the sport was fast approaching a "cliff" in levy funding. Mr Harman stated that there would be severe consequences unless action was taken to secure income. He spoke at the British Racing parliamentary reception on 17 November.

## ▼ A CIRCUS

Two zebras escaped from a circus in Philadelphia on 15 November. The pair covered three kilometres before they were caught.



## ▼ A STRANDED HORSE

A gelding named Beau became stuck on an island in his field in Cumbria on 15 November when the river Kent burst its banks. The RSPCA sent two crews to move Beau to safety.

## Endurance

# Positive signs for UAE sport



Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Sultan plans to reform UAE endurance by beefing up local rules

A member of Abu Dhabi's ruling family aims to reform UAE endurance with tough new local rules, *writes Pippa Cuckson*.

FEI rules still apply, but at the Bou Thib venue of Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, prizes will only be awarded to combinations meeting new best condition-orientated criteria. These include a GPS-controlled maximum speed of 20kph, 10-minute vetting time, 50-minute compulsory hold, hypersensitivity tests to discourage nerve-blocking, and a bid to reduce "mobile crewing" by limiting following cars to one per five horses and providing official crew points every kilometre.

Bou Thib hosts five of the 17 FEI rides

scheduled for the UAE winter season. Sheikh Sultan hopes others will follow suit and wants competitors "to honour and protect our valued partner, the horse, while developing the horsemanship to achieve that objective".

The initiative came about in conjunction with ATRM, the timing company run by French four-star endurance official François Kerboul. He said that Sheikh Sultan had sought reform long before the FEI suspended the UAE in March for major horse welfare violations.

Kerboul added that under these new local rules, the winner of an 80km CEI\* on 7 November would have finished 24th and the 12th-placed rider would have won.

## Showjumping

# Europe to launch new series



There will be a USA v Europe challenge

A "prestigious" new showjumping series is to be launched by the European Equestrian Federation (EEF) next year, *writes Amy Mathieson*.

The concept of the EEF Intercontinental Riders Trophy was unveiled last month (29 October) and will be a challenge between North American and European teams.

Dr Hanfried Haring, the president of the EEF, said it was a "landmark announcement" for the federation.

"As much as the creation required a long process and serious effort, we are

confident that we will be able to announce a new sponsor for this new concept soon," he said.

"I look forward to the first challenge between teams from North America and Europe in cooperation with top organisers and a prestigious partner."

An EEF told *H&H* that further information would be published "in the coming weeks".

"The concept is in the discipline of showjumping with a continental challenge format," he added.

The FEI told *H&H* it could not comment until further information was available.

## DIARY DATES 26 Nov - 3 Dec

### GO RACING

The Hennessy Festival is at Newbury racecourse from 26 to 28 November. The Hennessy Gold Cup will be held on 28 November and entries include *H&H's* 5 November cover star Saphir Du Rheu.

[www.newburyracecourse.co.uk](http://www.newburyracecourse.co.uk)

### DEMONSTRATION

Four-star eventer Paul Tapner will join RideSmart coach Jon Pitts for a demo at Bicton College, Devon, on 1 December.

[www.ridesmart.me](http://www.ridesmart.me)

### ROR TRAINING

Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) hosts a dressage to music clinic with Amanda Birch at Blewbury Equestrian Centre, Oxon, on 29 November.

[www.ror.org.uk](http://www.ror.org.uk)

### SALES

Goresbridge's registered Connemara and Irish draught sale takes place on 3 December in Co. Kilkenny.

[www.irishhorse.com](http://www.irishhorse.com)



### TRY EVENTING

A British Eventing taster day for non-members is being held on 29 November at Llanymynech, Shropshire. Instructor Elspeth Carr will give the training.

[www.britisheventing.com](http://www.britisheventing.com)

### CHARITY FAIR

Redwings' Aylsham centre in Norfolk is holding a Christmas fair from 27 November to 21 December.

[www.redwings.org.uk](http://www.redwings.org.uk)

### SHOWJUMPING

See international jumping at Keysoe from 27 to 29 November. The Bedfordshire equestrian centre is hosting a CSI2\*.

[www.keysoe.com](http://www.keysoe.com)

### POINT-TO-POINT

Celebrate the start of the pointing season at Cottenham racecourse, Cambs, on 29 November.

[www.pointtopoint.co.uk](http://www.pointtopoint.co.uk)

## And finally: rock 'n' roll

ROCKING along to the Beatles has taken on a whole new meaning.

Sir Paul McCartney has signed a bespoke rocking horse created by the Stevenson Brothers, which will be auctioned off to raise money for Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool.



The *Yesterday* hitmaker also wrote the lyric "rockin' horse people eat marshmallow pies", from the song *Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds*, on the piece. The horse was designed with a little help from Sir Paul's own equine friend Moonstar and features a plait of hair from the steed himself.

Those hoping for a ticket to ride the one-of-a-kind creation can see it at The Ultimate Christmas Fair at Liverpool's Exhibition Centre, 26 to 29 November.

It will be auctioned via eBay from 19 to 26 November; money raised by the sale will go towards funding medical equipment and research.

"When it comes to autographs, Paul's is the crème de la crème," said event director Sharon Burrell. **LE**

Picture by The Stevenson Brothers/Sir Paul McCartney

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# Letters



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## LETTER OF THE WEEK

### It is a privilege, not a chore

I would like to distance myself from the deliberations of the members of the British Equine Veterinary Association on the need for "work-life" balance for equine vets (news, 12 November).

As an equine veterinary surgeon of 42 years I am in the twilight of my career. However, I shall not miss being associated with the views of colleagues whose major concern is to work office hours and maximise time off.

When I joined the profession it was a vocation not a job; it was not what you did, it was who you were.

My only concern has always been the welfare

of my patients and the concerns of their owners, not my own comfort or convenience.

Those seeking to join this profession would do well to acknowledge that it is a difficult and occasionally dangerous occupation and not an intellectual exercise. This would better prepare them for the future and possibly leave them less inclined to moan once they have joined its ranks.

It is a privilege to look after these wonderful animals, not a chore.

DAVID GABRIEL MRCVS

Avonwick

Devon

*The writer of the letter of the week wins a bottle of Champagne Taittinger*



## LEARNING TO RIDE A PROPER FINISH

Sir – With the sad passing of Pat Eddery (news, 19 November), I thought I would send a story about the man himself.

Both Pat Eddery and the jockey Paul Cook were apprentices with Frenchie and Diana Nicholson at Prestbury, Cheltenham in the early 1960s. Mr Nicholson bought two horses for both Pat and Paul to learn on, Tenor and Balle D'or.

Mrs Nicholson came up with the idea that, to encourage these two lads to ride out a proper finish with their hands and heads, she offered them two shillings and sixpence – this was when *Horse & Hound* cost one shilling and sixpence – for every horse behind them when they finished. It obviously worked.

Tenor, who ran 54 times and won 31 races, went up to Frenchie's son David

Nicholson's yard. An amazing story – Tenor passed away peacefully aged 31.

Robin Dale

Bourton-on-the-Hill, Glos

## DITCH THE TEAM SPIRIT

Sir – I agree 100% with Julian Seaman's column, "Ditch the bogus team situation" (12 November). I think the general standard of riding is so high now that we need to rethink the format for eventing as it's taking its toll on both horses and riders.

At least riders know the risks and can make a choice, whereas horses don't and can't. Personally, I think more emphasis should be put on testing rider skills and not horse guts.

Selina Boyce

Kennett, Cambs

## BACK TO BASICS

Sir – The letter about riding school shortcomings (12 November) makes valid points regarding teaching standards.

Those of us in the Association of British Riding Schools (ABRS) would fully endorse that teaching beginners the correct basics is crucial if riders are to be prevented from causing suffering to their mounts.

Adherence to classical principles has always been at the core of the association's instruction manuals and masterclasses, and dominate the syllabus of its various professional examinations.

It should not be necessary for pupils to have to go overseas to train, as your correspondent did, and I can only send my assurance that the ABRS is determined to play its part in achieving a better level of teaching, from beginners through to advanced riding.  
Hannah Mays, chairman ABRS  
Horsham, W Sussex

## A PLEA FOR PINT-SIZED PONY RIDERS

Sir – My daughter Jess qualified in the first round of Trailblazers

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last week at 85cm and we were about to send off the cheque for the certificate to enable her to enter the second round. There is a section she has to fill in stating junior/senior. She is 16 at present and turned 17 on 19 November.

She emailed Trailblazers to ask what this meant, and they advised her she will be classed as a senior for next year. We have also found out from them that the rules are changing so that seniors have to ride a horse over 148cm but juniors can ride any height pony/horse.

Her pony Cooper is 146cm so she is now unable to attend the championships on her pony. This was not pointed out to us at the venue she qualified at, and we would have gone ahead and paid out for further rounds, only to find out she could not compete when she arrived at the championships.

Julie Watson  
 Lincoln, Lincs

Show Direct's Kelvin Bywater responds: "The rules for Trailblazers showjumping, which have been published on the Trailblazers official website since 1 March 2015, clearly state that juniors riding ponies must not have attained their 17th birthday on the first day of the championship finals."

However, following the growing interest in seniors on ponies at the 2015 finals, we are considering an update to the current rules, published in December, to enable second rounds (which start mid-February 2016) to have the option to host seniors on ponies qualifiers for the 2016 championships.

### FLASH NOSEBANDS: TOO TIGHT BY FAR

Sir – It was with dismay that I saw a horse in Horses In the News (19 November) with its mouth so tightly strapped shut with a flash noseband that one could see the flesh being nipped in by the leather, bulging out between the straps.

Has horsemanship become so distant from the feelings of the horse that anything is

accepted, and even excused, especially if it is at top level? I feel strongly that simply because we are used to seeing tight flashes that they have become the accepted norm.

The welfare of the horse is at stake throughout all levels of riding and training, and unless this is highlighted it is never going to change.

Heather Moffett  
 Harberton, Devon

### WE SHOULD ALL MAKE A STAND

Sir – I was simply horrified to read your reports of the horses with amputated limbs in the UAE (news, 29 October and 5 November). Is this the fate of these poor creatures that have been broken by endurance racing?

It is not enough for us, supposedly a country of animal lovers, just to express our outrage.

We must all be determined to put an end to this unacceptable practice.  
 Margaret Thurlow-Craig  
 Finchfield, Essex

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

I was asked by several people at last month's season launch at Stratford racecourse whether *H&H* will still be covering point-to-pointing this season. Questions sparked, it would seem, by the news that other publications are scaling back their coverage. My answer was simple — a wholehearted yes.

I was swamped with responses following my call for new writers in October and, as a result, have increased our band of point-to-point reporters. It means *H&H* will be represented at more fixtures and can achieve a good regional spread across the point-to-point section.

Some exciting new sponsorship was announced at Stratford (news, 12 November), prompting many jockeys, no doubt, to wonder whether a pink or lemon AGA would best suit their kitchen. I also suspect that several owners will plan their season's campaign around winning the use of a Subaru Forester for a year.

I watched Gina and Tom Ellis exercise their string for our point-to-point special (p40), while this issue also brings you fascinating stories behind people's choice of jockey silks (p48). They've come a long way since chariot racing in ancient Rome.

For anyone considering turning conditional — or those interested in what this procedure actually means — several jockeys speak honestly about their experiences on p44.



**Aimi Clark**  
 Point-to-point editor  
 @Aimi\_clark

## NEXT WEEK

### REVIEW OF THE YEAR

We laughed, we cried: the horses, the people, the images, the events and the news stories that made 2015

**H&H INTERVIEW**  
 Jockey Will Biddick,  
 plus the point-to-  
 point season kicks off

**TRAINING**  
 Move it like...  
 showjumper  
 Phillip Miller

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# ‘The best of my fun, I owe it to...’



## My favourite pub...

Our local, the Baker Arms in Bayford, where we have our Christmas party. My favourite restaurant is Rules in Covent Garden – it's one of London's oldest restaurants and I just love the Englishness of it.

## My money-saving secret...

My husband Graham Watson – he's an accountant.

## Biggest mistake...

I was off to my first international competition in Copenhagen and the Bechtolsheimers offered me a lift on their plane.

It was an old Russian tank transporter and you could drive the lorry straight on – all I had to do was measure the lorry up, which I did with a broom and a rope.

When we reached Luton airport the lorry was a couple of inches too tall. We let the tyres down and at Copenhagen the



## DANIEL SHERRIFF

The grand prix dressage rider on riding a bull, his Pony Club A Test and his escapee dog

Danes were terribly efficient and pumped them up again – but on the way back in the UK I had to drive on soft tyres to the nearest garage and the back ones exploded. It was an expensive lesson to learn.

## Remembering when...

I took my Staffie, Rocky, to Sheepgate where I was in the prix st georges. He escaped from the lorry and came to find me – in the arena.

## My secret weapon...

My Albion Revelation saddle – it was quite literally a revelation, it's incredibly comfortable and all my horses are in them now.

## The best after-party...

The party Carl Hester threw after the 2012 Olympics. We all went down the Thames on a boat; everyone was on cloud nine.

## Most memorable win...

In 1986 I won the Talent Spotting and also passed the Pony Club A Test with honours. It set me on the path to ride professionally.

## What I would say to my 15-year-old self...

Results and respect come with time and patience. You have to be able to take the knocks, because there are so many with horses.

## Getting away from it all...

I go skiing in the French Alps, I love family holidays, and I love scuba diving. It's so relaxing and peaceful.

## When I'm driving long distances in the lorry...

I listen to dance music to keep me awake, and classical music to calm me down in traffic.

## My favourite city...

Copenhagen – it's one of the happiest, friendliest cities I've ever been to.

## My biggest indulgence...

*A luxury spa treatment.*

## My earliest memory of riding...

It was on a bull when I was about three. Being brought up on a farm we were plonked on Harry the Hereford!

## Settling down with...

H&H – I read the dressage, but I also like the property pages.

## My first pony...

Topper, a Welsh/Shetland. He'd been round every family in Hertfordshire and was as naughty as hell. He'd roll anywhere and he didn't care if you were on him or not, but he was bombproof and he taught me to ride.

## My warm-up tip...

Look between your horse's ears. People stay out of your way because they think you haven't seen them. H&H

● NEXT WEEK: eventer Gemma Tattersall



## MY PLAN B:

if it hadn't been dressage...

*It would have to be property developing – I'm interested in doing up old properties and interior design.*

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**£1.1m** Butler Sherborn, 01451 830731,

[www.butlersherborn.co.uk](http://www.butlersherborn.co.uk)



## Ogbourne Maissey Manor **WILTSHIRE**

**Pick of the pubs:** Silks on the Downs, Ogbourne St Andrew

**For you:** a Grade II-listed Jacobean manor house with eight bedrooms, a cellar, playroom and a games room.

There is also lapsed consent to convert part of the outbuildings to create a cottage.

**For the horses:** four stables and a paddock, set in 8.8 acres.

**£1.4m** Savills, 01635 277700, [www.savills.co.uk](http://www.savills.co.uk)



## Foxgloves **HAMPSHIRE**

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**For you:** a two-bedroom house with an AGA, inglenook fireplace, cottage gardens and a heated pool.

**For the horses:** five stables, a tack room/sixth stable, feed store, hay barn, two further barns and an outbuilding that could provide additional stabling. Set in 4.8 acres of grazing.

**£995,000** Penyards, 02380 284697,

[www.penyards.com](http://www.penyards.com)



## Bondstones **DEVON**

**Pick of the pubs:** Duke of York, Iddesleigh

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**£850,000** Miller Town & Country, 01837 54080, [www.millertc.co.uk](http://www.millertc.co.uk)

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# Healing hooves

Some skilful surgery was required when towering dressage star Boston Deluxe developed a keratoma, a troublesome tumour of the hoof. **Andrea Oakes** investigates



Boston is prepared for his dorsal hoof resection under sedation. After washing the hoof, vets nerve-block it and apply a tourniquet to control the bleeding

**S** OON after starring on *Horse & Hound's* front cover earlier this year (9 July), small tour dressage gelding Boston Deluxe was diagnosed with a keratoma.

Successful treatment of these hard-to-access hoof tumours requires scrupulous removal of the affected tissue and no small amount of patience, as Boston's owner Jane Lavington discovered...

## 21 June

"BOSTON comes in lame from the field and looks suspiciously 'footy'," says Jane. "He's hopping lame by the morning and the vet releases a small pocket of pus from the sole of his left forefoot, which



The entire keratoma is removed, exposing the pedal bone behind

we then poultice. It's the first abscess Boston has ever had. We're hoping it clears up in time for the Hickstead premier league show at the end of the month."

## 28 June

AFTER returning to soundness, Boston, a part-Clydesdale, once again goes badly lame.

"This time our farrier, John Stern, releases more pus from the same spot," says Jane. "Unfortunately, Hickstead is now off."

## 13 July

WHEN the abscess fails to resolve, Boston is taken to Bell Equine Veterinary Clinic in Kent for X-rays.

"We think he may have trodden on something that has penetrated deep to the tip of his pedal bone," says Jane.

A larger hole is made in the sole to access the infection and Jane is careful to keep the hoof clean.

## 28 July

FURTHER hospital investigations reveal that the problem is not an abscess but a keratoma.

Vet David Sinclair explains: "A keratoma can sometimes put pressure on the pedal bone and starve it of its blood supply, so that the bone is resorbed – a process called pressure necrosis. We X-rayed Boston's pedal bone from above to see if this had created an obvious groove or 'nibbled' appearance, which would indicate the presence of a keratoma.

"We could see the dark hole where the sole had been pared away and a tract containing debris running up inside the hoof, but as this is not conclusive in itself, we confirmed the diagnosis with an MRI scan."

"I'm actually quite relieved," says Jane. "A keratoma is serious and does require surgery, but at least this can be done under standing sedation without general anaesthetic."



The hoof is wrapped up to prevent infection and the need for antibiotics



The first dressing change at home. The gap is packed with iodine swabs

## 29 July

BOSTON is sedated and prepared for a dorsal hoof resection. His hoof is nerve-blocked and a tourniquet applied around the fetlock to control the bleeding.

"Using a pair of half-round hoof nippers or a saw, we removed a vertical strip of the hoof wall," explains David. "We



The foot is starting to show signs of hardening up and healing inside



Additional treatment by cold laser therapy helps encourage horn growth

started over the point where the infection had broken through the sole and worked up to the coronary band. It is possible to leave a 'bridge' of horn at the coronary band and bore into the wall from underneath, but the most important thing is to remove the entire tumour to limit the possibility of recurrence."

The exposed tumour can then be extracted carefully from the surrounding tissue.

"Boston's keratoma shells out beautifully and we removed a core of discoloured tumour tissue," adds David.

## 31 July

BOSTON stays in hospital overnight.

"We packed the gap with iodine-impregnated swabs to control any bacteria and to 'leather up' [toughen] the tissue," says David. "After two weeks we used dry dressings until horn growth started to appear at the coronary band. Antibiotics should not be necessary if the hoof is kept covered – it can often be counter-productive."

Jane discusses treatment options with her vet and farrier. Some cases benefit from a bar

shoe, with or without a flat 'hospital plate' applied to the sole, to stabilise the hoof capsule. Because Boston has been barefoot for some years, Jane is reluctant to have him shod if it is not essential.

## 10 August

BACK at home, Boston is on box rest. Jane tries an alternative treatment, cold laser therapy, to encourage horn growth.

Healthy, healing granulation tissue is appearing, but at the first trim John notices a split at the top of the hoof, at the coronet band, that moves when Boston puts weight on it.

## 12 August

JOHN fits an aluminium plate across the gap in the hoof wall, sealing the protruding screw heads with glue.

## 4 September

BANDAGES are at last removed and Boston is allowed to graze in a small pen.

"Having his foot wrapped up for 10 weeks and being on box rest has had disastrous effects on the rest of his hoof," says Jane, who protects the hoof wall with cotton wool and duct tape to allow his heels to breathe. "Both front frogs have shrivelled and we've had minor thrush issues, but things will hopefully now improve."



An aluminium plate is fitted to prevent the coronet band from splitting further



An MRI scan confirms the presence of a keratoma, indicated by the arrow

## 18 September

BOSTON now has access to a larger pen for longer periods.

"I'm still plugging the hole daily with cotton wool and soaking the foot twice a week in sterilising fluid," says Jane. "It's difficult to see exactly what's happening under the plate, although new, healthy horn is appearing at the coronet."

## 2 November

THREE months after surgery, John removes the plate and David trims away excess granulation tissue. Regrowth now reaches a third of the way down the hoof, but Boston is not out of the woods. Hoof horn grows at about 1cm a month, making rehab a long process, and there is a small chance the tumour will reappear.

"It's now a matter of time," says David. "The hope is that Boston will have a more positive New Year and be able to return to full work." **H&H**

● NEXT WEEK: Cushing's disease



Following removal of the metal plate any granulation tissue can be cut back

## KERATOMA FACTS

"A keratoma is a relatively rare, benign tumour of the keratin or horn-producing part of the hoof wall," says David Sinclair MRCVS. "Classically cone or cylinder-shaped, the tumour originates in or just beneath the coronary band where the horn is produced and grows vertically down the white line of the hoof. When it reaches the floor, the integrity of the joint between the sole and hoof wall is lost and infection sets in.

"Deformity of the hoof or local pain may indicate a keratoma, but the most common sign is an abscess that fails to resolve or recurs after treatment. While X-rays can reveal the mass itself and any damage to the pedal bone, an MRI scan will more clearly define the extent of the abnormal tissue.

"Various theories as to why a keratoma forms include local irritation, trauma or stretching of cells that produce keratin. There is no particular susceptibility among differing ages, types or breeds, nor among shod or unshod feet.

"While there is a strong feeling that maintaining proper hoof conformation should help prevention, this is by no means the whole story. Development of a keratoma is somewhat unlucky, but prognosis is good as long as all traces of the tumour are removed and healing of the hoof wall is successful."



# Beezie Madden

America's top female showjumper talks to **Catie Staszak** about her exciting string ahead of Rio

**A**CCORDING to the old adage, history repeats itself. But few in attendance at this year's King George V Gold Cup at Hickstead may have expected that to happen quite so quickly, as the USA's Beezie Madden, the first woman to win the prestigious King George V Cup in its 108-year history in 2014, repeated the feat just one year later in August.

Beezie, 52, who achieved her successive victories with long-time partner Cortes C, was also the first rider to win consecutive King George V Cups in more than half a century.

"Any time you win a CSIO5\*, it's a huge deal, but doing it at Hickstead it's a lot of fun, because of all the history there — and part of that history was that the event was only for men for so long," she says.

"The tradition of horsemanship in England is just fantastic, so to do it in front of that crowd is really neat."

## Aiming big

**B**ASED in Cazenovia, New York, where she runs John Madden Sales with her husband John, Beezie is enjoying one of her very best seasons in 2015. That's saying something for the two-time Olympic gold medallist.

This year, she has been ranked a career-best second on the FEI world rankings list, behind Scott Brash, and was the world's top-ranking American.

"It's an honour," she says. "We don't really have a goal to be that high on the world ranking list, but we like to stay a little high so that we are invited to shows that we want to go to. It's a nice reflection of how your year has been when you're high on that list. We try to aim for big classes instead of trying to do a bunch of small classes, so if you do it well, it pays off."

"With Cortes and stablemate Simon, we aim for the biggest things. Whichever is going his best at the time is called on."

While those two campaigners anchor Beezie's string and garner most of the publicity, there is ample talent waiting in the wings.

Her stable includes Breitling LS, a nine-year-old Dutch stallion who has had his fair share of international success. The dark bay, who won the Young Horse Finals in Valkenswaard with Beezie as a seven-year-old in 2013, topped a field of 46 to win the CSIO5\* Bunn Leisure International Stakes at Hickstead in July and was second at the New Albany Classic in September.

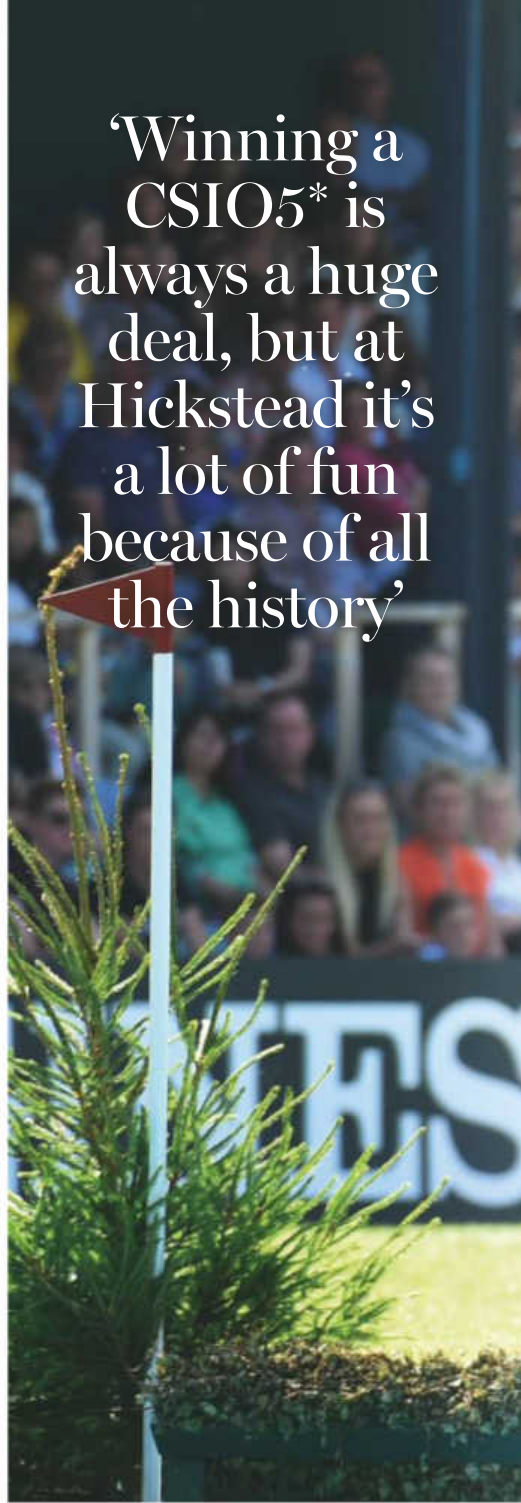
Beezie also rides Vanilla, a 13-year-old daughter of Beezie's 2012 Olympic mount Coral Reef Via Volo, who jumped to second-place honours at the Hudson Valley Jumper Classic CSIO5\* at HITS Saugerties in early September; and Coach, a seven-year-old Holsteiner gelding by Con Air, who was turned over to Beezie in June. A "scopey horse with a lot of ability", Coach was most recently a winner in the 1.40m division at the Del Mar International in California, where Beezie also won the Longines FEI World Cup qualifier with Simon.

Coach, along with Beezie's other

'Winning a CSIO5\* is always a huge deal, but at Hickstead it's a lot of fun because of all the history'



Beezie with her husband John, former chair of the FEI jumping committee, with whom she runs John Madden Sales in New York



top grand prix mounts, is owned by Abigail Wexner.

"I'm very lucky to have Abigail, who supports me so well that I'm able to have the horses that I do," says Beezie. "It's a big challenge, even with as many horses as I have, to plan a good schedule for them without doing too much. It's tempting to try to do everything, but you really can't. We pick a couple of events during the year that we want each horse to aim for, and then work around that schedule to have them actually peak when we want them to."

The newest addition to Beezie's string is Quister, an 11-year-old Selle Français gelding whom Abigail purchased in September. The chestnut was formerly campaigned by Switzerland's Jane

Beezie, who in 2014 became the first female winner of Hickstead's King George V Cup, repeats the feat with Cortes C this year

## BEEZIE ON...

### The breeding programme at John Madden Sales...

"IT'S fun. We've mostly done it with some of the mares and stallions that have retired, so it's kind of neat, because you have an emotional attachment. I can't say we've had huge success with it yet, but most of them are too young right now to tell. We've had a few five-year-olds that have come along, but right now we have a crop of four-year-olds. We'll see how they do, and we have a bunch of younger ones."

### Potential mounts...

"TALENT is one thing and that's probably what you can see the easiest when they're young. But what you really look for is the kind of temperament that is going to work with you, so that you can train them and in the end have enough blood and spunk that they fight for you. They have to fight in the right way, and that's a hard thing to tell. I go a little bit by the feeling I have on a horse. If I feel confident in them, like I'm excited to work with them and have them in the stable, then it's a good shot."

### Schooling...

"I like to do rails on the ground in my flatwork, because it stimulates the senses. Other than that, we tailor the jumping to what each horse needs. Rideability, mostly, is what we work on."

events that might be part of the selection system in the spring.

"We will have to see how it goes with Quister," she adds. "For sure he can help fill in the gaps, and I have to show him a bit more anyway to work out a good partnership with him.

"He'll start earlier in Florida, and then we'll see how it's looking. It's hard to say right now."

Although Beezie has been a stalwart on the US Olympic showjumping team for the past three Games — she has won two team golds and one individual bronze — she knows to take nothing for granted.

But she is eager for redemption after the USA — team gold medallists at the 2004 and 2008 Games — failed to make the podium at the London Olympics in 2012.

"We would love to do better, and I hope I'm part of it," she says. "I think we probably have more depth at the top level now than we have had in a fair few years.

"There are some exciting horses coming up as well as horses that are already established. I'm not going to predict anything great, because that jinxes us, but we seem to be in a good position." **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK:** point-to-pointer Will Biddick

Richard Philips and already has CSI5\* experience on his CV.

Beezie made her debut with Quister at the Del Mar International when Coach and Simon were competing, and the gelding produced three clear rounds in 1.45m classes, including a double clear worthy of second-place honours in the CSI4\* competition.

"We got him a little bit late in the year, and that was part of the reason why we decided to make the trip to California, where there is every kind of class I could want to show him in, because I didn't really know what level we'd be ready for," says Beezie.

"He's been a pleasure so far — I'm actually further along than I thought I might be at this point."

### Redemption for London 2012

WITH the 2016 Olympics less than a year away, Beezie's sights are set on representing the US in Rio de Janeiro next August. Should she make the team, it would be her fourth time competing at the Games. Cortes C and Simon will each have equal chances at qualifying, as will any other horse that shows he is up for the task at the time.

"We'll target as many of the horses as we can," she says. "Simon and Cortes will both definitely be targeted for that, because you never know what can happen. Cortes is already finished showing for the year, and Simon just has HITS Thermal left. We'll probably start them up later in Florida to have them peaked in time for the Nations Cup



# Move it like... Spencer Wilton

The 42-year-old dressage rider on relaxation, patience and an 'endless amount' of shoulder-fore

## Communication

- The information you give your horse needs to be 50% telling him where you want him to go, and 50% how to get there.
- Many basic faults can be corrected if you focus on telling the horse where to go.

## Calm environment

- Some horses can be sharp or sensitive because of what has happened to them in their early years.
- Give them as relaxed an environment as you can. It's important to consider how they spend their time before and after work. The view from their stable or who they are next to can be crucial.

**T**HE fundamental idea is that we are training the horse — not the horse training us. I spend a lot of time on suppleness and relaxation, which are key to everything. Most people will stretch their horse at the start and the end of a session, but it's often beneficial also to do so between exercises.

It's important when stretching to feel that the horse is working from behind, even if it's subtle. It's up to me to decide the head and neck position in the stretch and the horse must learn to keep the connection from the leg to the hand. He may only be able to do so for one or two steps at first — I have had to learn to be patient.

I seem to do an endless amount of shoulder-fore. I aim to have it confirmed in all three gaits and to be able to achieve it anywhere in the arena. It's a powerful tool for the horse to gain and maintain strength, suppleness and energy.

Whether the horse is four or 14, I would never stop using it, and reminding the horse of it throughout its career.

● **NEXT WEEK:** showjumper Phillip Miller

## Physio programme

- My back is quite long and I've been sneakily trying to cover up an asymmetry for a long time. My left shoulder likes to join in with everything I do.
- I've embarked on a physio programme of gentle exercise, stretching and using a gym ball.
- Once my back is better I'll begin a fitness programme to bring my quads out of early retirement!

## Keeping it varied

- I do a lot of hacking. I enjoy it and the horses do too. We'll have a trot and a canter but not a mad gallop.
- Variety in training is important and hacking is good for the horse's brain and body. **H&H**



# Shared past

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# Sherhona

This deceptively quick cob jumps notorious hedges for bets and has won a 'Grand National', writes **Charlotte Mackaness**

**M**ost teenage boys' dream hunter is probably a dashing 17hh bay, so when 13-year-old Bartie Staggs made the trip to Leicestershire from Dorset to try a long-backed, 15.2hh coloured cob his initial impression was not positive.

"Shona is no looker, that's for sure, but I soon realised she was something special," says Bartie, now 25. "She's straightforward and will jump anything, which allowed me to show off in front of girls and then flirt with them when we were not on the move."

Perfect for a teenage boy, as it turned out.

"Shona has carried me over the very biggest Portman and Blackmore Vale hedges and also won me a number of bets," Bartie reveals. "In particular I remember a senior Portman member said I wouldn't be able to jump a notorious hedge with a huge drop without falling off. Shona made nothing of it."

This diminutive powerhouse is by Miley out of a Welsh cob mare, and is deceptively fast. It's a trait she's passed on to her only foal.

"When we went to India for four years, we put Shona in foal to Deltic. Her son is now seven and eventing at one-star level. He also really covers the ground," says Bartie's mother, Arabella.

"Motherhood was not for Shona. She kept jumping out of the field to join the Crawley and Horsham."

Tom Lyle, now huntsman of the Dartmoor, was spending his gap year with the Portman when a call came from India saying Shona was coming to kennels.

"She is fantastic; one in a million and will do whatever is asked of her," he says. "I was very lucky to hunt her. But she is also recognisable at a distance — it wasn't easy to get away with being in the wrong place."

Taking the reins next was then-whip Michael Stokes.

"Shona's a little horse with a huge heart who loved her job and has dedication to hounds that is almost unparalleled," he says. "She got me out of trouble on many occasions. I remember flying down a slippery tarmac track after hounds when we unexpectedly came across unjumpable wire. Shona saw it before I did, skidded to a halt, turned and jumped a sizeable set of rails. All with hardly a kick from me."

Now 20, she hunts at least twice a week, including with Anna Poë (pictured), a regular with the Portman.

"Shona loves nothing more than crossing the vale, jumping everything in her way, often giving field masters leads," says Arabella. "But what is so special about her is how she looks after all manner of jockeys. She's given countless people their first taste of hunting and never puts a foot wrong. She also got me hunting again after a 20-year break."

A true hunt servant. **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK:** horse hero Molly Malone V



## A multiple title-holder

BARTIE STAGGS enjoyed great times team-chasing Shona, who also won the Isle of Wight Grand National. As they lined up, the 15.2hh coloured cob seemed a very unlikely winner.

"It's not under Rules but it was a proper course and race, and she won by a long way," says Bartie.

This year Shona was awarded the "Portman Fox" for winning the hunt's hunter trial.





### Foibles

"SHONA hates pigs. She can smell them quite literally a mile off, long before you get a whiff of them or see them," says Arabella Stagg. "We've no idea where it has come from, but there is no doubting her dislike of the things."

### Phobias

"WHEN we collected Shona from Leicestershire, she promptly tried to jump out of the trailer," recalls Arabella. "She gets very claustrophobic and will try to lie down if able so we have to be very careful."

Tom Lyle's experiences of collecting Shona from Sussex are similar: "She kicked all the way to the Portman kennels. It was an interesting journey, to say the least."





# The sweetest rivalry

What happens when you find yourself pipped by your own child at a show? Does it create a frosty drive home or lashings of maternal pride, asks Martha Terry

**O**SCAR WILDE once said: “As long as a woman can look 10 years younger than her daughter, she is perfectly satisfied.” He was summing up a conflict many women feel — psychologists call it the Electra complex — that while mothers want the best for their daughters, pangs of jealousy can make for a hostile, combative relationship. But the great writer was clearly no horseman. In our extraordinary sport, where men, women, athletes in their prime and galloping grannies compete as equals, many mothers and daughters enjoy a healthy and fun rivalry.

## The first win

FOUR-STAR eventers Mary and Emily King show off the best side of this complex relationship. Emily, 19, has been pitted against her multi-medalled mother for several years now, and the competitive flame is undimmed on either side. From the very first time they met “in anger”, they both meant business.

“It was surreal,” says Emily, who has said she is motivated by trying to beat Mary’s success. “All I can remember is the usual — we both wanted to win.”

In fact it took more than three years before Emily did get her nose in front, which Mary felt was

important. She didn’t want to allow Emily to win for the sake of it, and experience “a hollow victory”.

“The first time I won I was over the moon and Mum was annoyed,” Emily jokes, before admitting her mother was actually proud. “We both always want to go as well as we can and for the horses to perform as expected — if that happens to include beating the other, then perfect.”

*H&H* dressage columnist Pammy Hutton places no significance on who comes out on top when she and daughter Pippa compete.

“Let the best woman win,” she says. “She has beaten me and I’ve beaten her, it’s not important to us. It’s about how the horses have gone, and how we have ridden.”

Pammy takes huge pride in her daughter’s achievements. There’s no glimmer of jealousy, more a deep respect akin to appreciation of a finely tuned damline.

“She is far better than I was at her age; I was eventing at that stage,” Pammy says. “This has been going on for three generations. She comes from a long female line that has instinct, intuition and feel, and I know that she’s naturally by far the best that’s been bred.”

**Above: Emily King admits she has been motivated by trying to beat her mother Mary’s eventing success**



Daisy Coakley has crossed paths with her mother Angela on the dressage circuit

"She was born keen. She first rode flying changes aged two, sitting up in front of me on a lovely grand prix horse I had. When she was 10, Carl was using her for demos at Badminton on a Connemara. She could do all the moves."

Maybe the purity of dressage leaves no room for a mother's envy; it's more about your personal performance on your horse.

Fellow dressage rider Daisy Coakley, 22, who is competing up to inter I, remembers vividly the first time she beat her mother, Angela.

"It was at Addington and Mum was leading right up to the last horse, which was mine — and I won," she says. "She knew I needed the points for qualifications so she didn't mind. She felt proud, and I can't say I felt guilty. We generally try to avoid competing against each other, but when our paths do cross it's quite funny."

Meanwhile, the often one-on-one nature of endurance riding must stir the blood. Charlotte Strang is in the middle of three generations of endurance riders. She often competes against one or more of her daughters, Daisy, Laura and Victoria.

"People ask if I'd let a daughter beat me — no way!" she says. "The only problem is I often don't beat them. Sometimes we've both worked so hard to try and overtake someone else that I forget I still have my own daughter to beat."

"We are all very competitive, but who better to beat you than your own child? It's a team effort."

### Teamwork, banter and nerves

THE fact that riding is such a team sport — involving not just the rider's partnership with their horse, but also the groom, coach and owner — perhaps makes it more conducive to a friendly rivalry.

Event rider Alice Hallows, 15, has had a superb season this year, never finishing out of the ribbons, and was on the long-list for the British pony eventing squad. Her father, Mike, is producing young horses — for Alice's future benefit — and has generally been left in her wake.

"Any result is for the team and it's all fun," says Alice, whose mother Sarah is an accomplished dressage competitor currently sidelined to work on

her daughter and husband's flatwork and be their groom.

"We have a bit of banter in the lorry going to events. I'll say: 'Dad, are you worried I'll beat you in the dressage?'"

"And the only time he had a stop this year, at a water fence, I'd had a really good day, so people were joking that I'd have to teach him how to jump water. But it's all a laugh. He has such a good reputation on the circuit that if I beat him it can only be good."

That team spirit is vital in endurance too. The Strang team all answer to Charlotte's own mother, Pauline Holloway.

"She is very much captain of the ship," says Charlotte. "All the horses are home-bred and belong to her. At the beginning of the season, we meet to make provisional plans for competitions. We might take four out at once for a gentle ride at the start of the season, but when we're racing we take a maximum of two and the rest of the family crews. We share it out and make compromises."

On an individual level, Pammy's relationship with

### Parent-child rivalry through history

● WHEN golfer Margaret Abbott won Olympic gold in 1900, one of her rivals was her own mother, Mary Abbott, who finished seventh.

This was the first — and is still the only — Olympic event in which a mother and daughter competed against each other.

● Italian basketball player Dino Meneghin experienced the most emotional moment of his record-breaking career aged 40, when he faced his 16-year-old son, Andrea, in a league game — and won.

● Australian eventer Bill Roycroft competed alongside — and against — his three sons at several Olympics: Barry in 1964, 1976 and 1988, Wayne in 1968, 1976 (winning team bronze both times) and 1984, and Clarke in 1972.

**'Let the best woman win. She has beaten me and I've beaten her, it's not important to us'**

**Pammy Hutton**

on competing against her daughter Pippa





**Above: Charlotte Strang often comes up against at least one of her three daughters in endurance races**

Pippa is complicated by the fact that she is also her trainer, adding another layer of professionalism to the rivalry — although one which Pammy believes provides an extra edge.

“We have an agreement that we’re professionals outside the house, but inside we’re mum and daughter,” says Pammy. “When I’m teaching her, she usually listens, although I do get the odd ‘shut up’ — but I’ll get that from anyone training at that level.

“Our relationship is unbelievably strong, we are so in tune with each other. An example is when she just missed bronze at the young rider Europeans. During her test I muttered something under my breath and somehow she heard and quickly realised she was three bars behind on her music.

“I can be a professional trainer while I’m helping her warm up, but as soon as she goes into the ring, I need someone to calm me down. My motherly instincts take over and I just want to throw up.”

Those instincts can be incredibly useful at times. When Daisy Coakley was competing four horses in seven tests at the nationals, her mother continually popped up to feed her chocolate to stoke up her energy between tests — despite having her own horse to compete.

And Daisy’s enjoying the role reversal from when she was a child.

“What we find funny is that as I was growing up, Mum would test the horses to make sure they were safe for me to ride; now it’s the other way round,” she says. “I’ve just helped her horse with walk pirouettes, and in return she wore in my boots for me.”

Far from a damaging Electra complex, these relationships thrive on rivalry and mutual help. But what impact do these special raptports have on the rest of the family?

“Mum and I horse around together and Dad and my brother Fred play football and farm together — it seems to work,” says Emily.

For the Strangs, too, only the girls do horses.

“We’re a very matriarchal family,” says Charlotte. “Our partners are supportive, but not that into horses. I’m afraid we do talk about horses all the time.”

And that’s just it. Most rivalries revolve around big egos striving for their own success, while these ones are focused on glory for someone else — the horse. **H&H**

## TIPS FOR KEEPING THE RELATIONSHIP SWEET

### Daisy Coakley

“Have two of everything. My mum and I are the same size, and we could share clothes, boots, scrunchies, hair bits and hats, as well as all the horse kit, but we’d bicker. I did steal her jacket at the nationals, but she’d ridden first so that was allowed.”

### Charlotte Strang

“Communication. Share feelings and don’t take stuff too personally because we’re all working for the benefit of the team.”

### Pammy Hutton

“My mum always said: ‘Never force them and don’t try to make them live your life’ — and all three of us rode internationally. However, my son Charlie was so unenthusiastic when he was 16 that I paid him £1 a time to ride.”

### Emily King

“I’m very lucky — Mum allows me to be independent and make my own mistakes, but she’s also very willing to offer help if I ask. I definitely would not have coped if she was a classic ‘horsey mum’, nagging away.”



**Dressage is in Pippa Hutton’s blood as she follows in her mother Pammy’s footsteps**





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# ‘You can’t speak like a human to a horse’

Ahead of next month’s Olympia Horse Show, **Madeleine Pitt** heads to southern France to meet Jean-François Pignon, and find out how he works his magic



**C**ONJURE an image of a French horse whisperer, and Jean-François Pignon fits the bill pretty well. Floppy hair, greying stubble and a v-neck t-shirt, the softly spoken 46-year-old exudes serenity. He’s reluctant to call himself a horse whisperer — “I don’t know anyone else who uses the same technique as me” — but from a spectator’s viewpoint, that’s exactly what it looks like, bordering on hypnotism.

On a bright November day at his home outside Calvisson, southern France, Jean-François gives us a taste of what the crowds can expect when he returns to Olympia next month.

Without speaking he rounds up 12 of his horses, including the seven-year-old stallion Tiego, in an open field, lining them up like schoolchildren. Twenty minutes is spent grooming the horses as part of his “bonding process” while they patiently wait their turn — no headcollars or extra hands to keep them still.

Picking them out one by one they step forward and Jean-François plays with them in an attempt to “speak their language”.

“You can’t expect to speak like a human to a horse — different rules apply,” he says.

Calmly the horses lie down, place their legs on Jean-François’ shoulders, move on a circle in perfect timing — and then of course there is the “cherry on the top”, his grey Shetland Petite Coeur, there to

bring his mystical show back down to earth with a smattering of comedy.

So how exactly does he do it?

Jean-François’ notion of free horses is based on his ability to communicate and connect with horses using body language, having observed how they communicate with each other — and off the back of it he is now a global name.

In an average year he performs at 20 shows across the world — from Qatar to Japan — holds masterclasses at €3,000 (£2,100) a pop for a group of 12 and has featured in several films.

## ‘I was a bit of an introvert’

JEAN-FRANÇOIS has his father to thank for this unusual career. Aged 11 he was given Camargue filly Gazelle as a present to “bring him out of his shell”.

“I was the third boy of five siblings and I was a bit of an introvert,” says Jean-François, who immediately felt a connection with the mare. “The feeling, it was funny, it wasn’t something I was expecting. It suddenly came to me.”

With Gazelle, Jean-François began developing his techniques — “I am still learning today” — and at 14 he was doing his first show.

Initially he built up a company with his brother Frédéric where they acted the roles of circus riders, and in 1991 he performed his first show without tack.

**Jean-François lines up his horses ‘like schoolchildren’ and gets them to place their legs on his shoulders — without using his voice — by mimicking their body language**



Comedy act: the Shetland Petite Coeur brings a light-hearted touch



A man of many talents: Jean-François built his house himself

The two brothers went their separate ways to carve out their own shows and Jean-François performed at Olympia for the first time in 1997.

But aged 33 there came a turning point.

"Gazelle was very ill with a uterus infection and a vet came, but it wasn't going well," he remembers.

"After six months of heavy treatment we weren't sure if Gazelle would pull through. A friend asked: 'Would you like me to pray for your horse?' I said he could, but I didn't believe in it.

"So he put his hands on her. I felt very emotional — a shock went through me and I started crying. Gazelle got better and my friend said you must now believe that miracles can happen.

"Before that I thought that people who believed in God were scared of death or were weak. Now 50% of my technique is achieved through observing horses and 50% is through the words of the Bible, especially the words of love," he says.

"Horses are capable of feeling so you have to show them the same love and serenity as with humans."

### 'It's not easy for the horses at all'

JEAN-FRANÇOIS' buzzwords of "tranquility, serenity and love" and his wholesome set-up in rural France seem at odds with the bright lights and party atmosphere of Olympia. How does he ally the two?

"The horses like freedom and silence, and Olympia is the opposite," he admits. "It's not at all easy for them. But I am there to help and control them.

"The world of horses is a pyramid. They understand that you are dominant but you must respect them."

To assert his authority, Jean-François applies the pressure of a schooling whip, rewarding the horses by taking the pressure away when they move — although his ultimate aim is to "create a show without a whip or any equipment".

"Horses follow the dominant figure, so when shows go wrong — which they do — I have to stay calm.

"Lots of other artists — comedians or singers — need stress and pressure to perform to their best, but I try to transport this tranquility to the show.

"The hardest part about Olympia is getting young horses to be at the mercy of the crowd — when the horses are on the floor they are vulnerable."

## BEYOND THE SHOW

### THE GAZELLE DYNASTY...

In total Jean-François has 17 horses, of which around 50% are from Gazelle's bloodline. He still has the last of Gazelle's daughters, 33-year-old Salsa, who performed with him at Olympia in 1997.

### HIS OWN FAMILY...

From two marriages, Jean-François has six children — ranging from a three-year-old to a 17-year-old. "One day I am keen for the younger ones to get involved in the show, if they are keen," he says.

### INJURIES...

Despite what appears to be a dangerous show, Jean-François has avoided injury. "Horses are very claustrophobic animals but they have freedom here — they never feel endangered and I am careful not to make big explosions with my movements."

### MAINSTREAM EQUESTRIAN SPORT...

From the age of 14 to 20, Jean-François took part in endurance, showjumping and dressage, but he ended up not having time to pursue them and preferred the "freedom approach".



Jean-François says horses are capable of feeling, and bases his technique on 'tranquility, serenity and love'

Another problem at Olympia is the timing. Jean-François is allowed just 10 minutes for each performance. Factoring in the grooming and bonding on which he relies, the slot leaves him little time to perform the spectacle that the crowds expect.

"When I performed for the Jubilee celebrations at Royal Windsor, I was allowed just four minutes. The organisers were

making bets on how much over I would be," he laughs.

Has he faced criticism for his unusual approach?

"Yes, without a doubt," he says. "But I'm not interested, it puts me off my train of thought."

Nor is he interested in too much applause.

"It can make you arrogant and lose focus. God has given me the strength to ignore criticism," he says.

For someone whose principles seem so overtly virtuous, Jean-François is reassuringly down to earth. His wife Sylvie scoffs at the almond milk he tries to give us with our coffee, motorbikes are his guilty pleasure and his wooden house that he built with his "own bare hands" boasts a sizeable TV.

At Olympia he enjoys the Puissance, is impressed by the Whitakers' style — "they give the impression that they are almost at one with the horse" — thinks the Shetlands in the Grand National are "incredible", and soaks up the Christmas vibe in London.

"Olympia is well organised like other events, but unlike other shows, it has a party atmosphere." **H&H**

• Watch Jean-François Pignon at Olympia on 15-21 December 2015. Visit [www.olympiahorseshow.com](http://www.olympiahorseshow.com)







# Strides ahead

## THE TRAINER

CHRIS BURTON clinched third and fourth at Burghley CCI4\* in September. He represented Australia at the 2014 World Equestrian Games and 2012 Olympics, and is the reigning British Open champion.

## THE RIDER

SURREY-based Josephine (Joey) Cole works in IT recruitment. She rides her stepfather Bob Lees' Mrs Brown II, who events at novice level.

Reading a distance to find a good take-off spot can be a tricky skill to master, but three simple exercises from Olympic event rider Chris Burton will have you jumping clear in no time. **Aimi Clark** reports

**S**TRUGGLING to leave all the showjumps intact? It is easy to get hung up on what your horse is doing — perhaps rushing, getting excited, feeling strong or being careless with a hindleg — but how effective are you in the saddle and how well can you judge a distance as you approach a fence?

When Aussie Olympian Chris Burton meets novice campaigners Joey Cole and Mrs Brown II, Joey explains that her 14-year-old mare “gets excited and rushes to fences, which encourages her to jump flat”. Consequently, they rarely record a clear round — a frustrating but familiar scenario on a horse who scores well in the dressage and is usually penalty-free across country.

Chris assesses the pair as they warm up. Before Joey can do too much, though, he suggests she shortens her stirrups.

“At the moment your lower leg is too forward and your contact with the horse’s side isn’t consistent,” he explains (top right).

He shows Joey where her lower leg should be. At her current stirrup length, once her leg is further back it is not securely in place and Joey is unable to push her weight down into her heels.

“This is a mistake I see quite a lot, even at one- and two-star level,” says Chris. “Your lower leg is your security. If it’s not in the right place you’re not in balance with your horse.”

“Whenever you are in the saddle there should be a straight line from your ankle through your hip, up to your shoulder,” continues Chris. “Even if you collapse over a fence you should still have that lower line, which means your centre of gravity is in the right place.”

With her stirrups shorter, Joey finishes warming up before cantering Mrs Brown over two ground poles. Chris begins with the same pole exercise used in his last masterclass (*H&H* 5 November) so that Joey starts looking for a distance and adjusting the canter by adding and removing strides between the poles.

“Seeing a good distance when you’re cantering to a pole is the same concept as approaching a 1.60m

Joey and Mrs Brown clear an oxer with confidence under the watchful eye of Chris Burton



Above: Joey's leg is too far forward, with the ankle in front of her hip and shoulder. Chris advises shorter stirrups so that Joey can push her weight down into her heels and have a constant contact with the mare's sides



Above, middle: Chris shows how the pole should be in the middle of the horse's stride – he recommends practising it when walking along a pavement. It will help Joey train her eye to read a better distance to the pole – currently she struggles

fence, except that if you get it wrong at a pole it doesn't matter. Everyone should practise over poles a lot — I do."

### Be a fussy trainer

JOEY struggles to place the pole in the middle of a stride (right), Mrs Brown tending to take off early and not being able to fit even strides between the poles. The last stride then becomes shorter because Mrs Brown is running out of space.

"Good riders make this exercise look easy, but actually it's not — it takes practice," says Chris.

"When you're walking along a pavement pick a crack in the concrete and practise putting it in the middle of your own stride. It's the same concept."

Chris states that having a better quality canter on the approach will help with achieving even strides.

"You've already told me that the mare speeds up, but you came around the corner holding the canter and as a result had to ride forward to meet the first pole. This resulted in long strides on the other side, so you ended up saying 'whoa' to wait for the second pole.

"This time come in a more forward canter and then you only need to make little adjustments. Don't be afraid to let her travel. Suddenly kicking on and saying 'go faster' sends mixed messages to a horse that wants to rush."

Picking the best line to a fence is important, too.

"This is where I'm fussy in training," explains Chris. "Look for your line early. You always want to be turning to it, like coming on to the centre line in a dressage test by turning before A. If you overshoot and have to turn back, staying in balance and maintaining a good canter becomes a lot harder. Then you're less likely to have a good jump."

"You should also be fussy about jumping in the middle of the poles. Training is your chance to teach horses good habits."

### Legs must mean 'go'

CHRIS builds a small cross pole with a ground line in front. This remains at the same height throughout the lesson, with Mrs Brown approaching it in trot every time. The mare lands in canter and continues to an oxer four strides later. On the landing side, Joey collects Mrs Brown and asks her to halt as quickly — but smoothly — as possible.

"Horses don't come out of the womb knowing what





‘whoa’ means, so if in training you say ‘whoa’ after a fence just before asking her to slow down, when you say ‘whoa’ on a course they will respond much quicker to your aids.”

On their first time through the combination, Mrs Brown shuffles in a short fourth stride because the other strides covered too much ground.

“Don’t let the first and second strides get too long,” advises Chris. “This distance will work — you just have to have the confidence to sit and let it happen.

“This exercise is great for helping riders to become confident about seeing a distance.”

Mrs Brown jumps through the double several more times, Chris gradually raising the height of the oxer. The mare knocks the back pole off once.

“Keep your leg on when you take off to say, ‘Don’t forget the power.’”

Mrs Brown refuses.

“You said ‘go’ with your legs but she didn’t listen, which isn’t good,” says Chris. “Take the fence out of the equation and walk her to the side of it without turning away. Now canter around the arena and put your leg on to make her go.”

After one lap Joey asks for walk.

**Above: Joey trots to a cross pole (left), the height of which never changes.**

**Mrs Brown lands in canter and Joey learns to sit and look for the four strides (right) to an oxer**

“That’s good,” adds Chris. “Now put your leg on and make her go again.”

A second lap later Joey brings the mare back to trot. “Now trot through the double. On the fourth stride make sure your leg is on, telling her to go.”

It works — Mrs Brown flies the oxer confidently.

“That time she understood that your aids were not negotiable and she trusted in your authority,” says Chris. “I like this horse. When she made a mistake and caught a pole it woke her up, and the next time she was sharper. It’s a good way for horses to learn because they can correct themselves next time.

“But when the rider makes a mistake it’s bad because it knocks the horse’s confidence and takes away from the trust they have in you.”

## Putting in a halt

AS Joey turns to the double again, Chris reminds her to wait until she has seen a good distance to the oxer before using her legs. She shouldn’t land from the cross pole and be in a rush to make Mrs Brown canter forward.

“I think I do it subconsciously because the fence is bigger,” says Joey.

“Bingo,” replies Chris. “But you should ride it exactly the same. The distance hasn’t changed; this exercise lets you just canter and look at the fence, keeping a rhythm.

“Remember you want four even strides.

She’s a smart mare and knows what is coming so she shortens at the last stride, which makes your job easier.”

Mrs Brown meets the oxer at a good take-off point.

Next time all four strides are more even, however the mare hits the oxer.

“That time you did nothing wrong but she made a mistake and hit a rail,” says Chris.

Joey circles back to the double. This time, when Mrs Brown has jumped the cross pole from trot, Joey asks her to halt after the second canter stride. Because Joey is thinking about doing this, the first two strides are shorter than they have been.

“When you get better at seeing a distance, so will the horse,” says Chris.

With two strides to go, they make a clean

## COUNTING DOWN TO THE TAKE-OFF

ACCORDING to Chris, counting down the strides to a fence is a good way to learn to see a stride. You should count backwards — with “one” being the last stride before take-off.

“It helps me — I always count strides in my mind,” he says.

“It always amazes me when I teach and ask how many strides someone has done and they don’t know — even at two- and three-star level. It fascinates me, because even if I don’t do the number of strides I’d planned to do I can still tell you what I did because I count them.”

By counting strides, Joey will be able to recognise earlier when she needs to push for a longer stride or hold for a shorter one.

“Counting like this helps to train your brain to look for the distance. You will also be able to react earlier and quietly adjust the stride as you get better at it.”



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**Above:** after clearing the oxer, Joey asks Mrs Brown to halt (left). Using her voice before asking the mare to stop will teach her to respond to Joey's voice – useful when negotiating tricky courses

halt-canter transition and clear the fence. “Wow — that time she took off slightly further back and really pushed off for it,” says Chris. “That’s the feeling of power you want to work towards every time.”

Joey repeats the exercise with a halt in the middle.

“Do you see how it sets you up to find the same distance every time?” asks Chris. “It helps you both relax.

“The logistics of jumping a horse means you can come to a spread in the right speed and rhythm and land and take off where you want, or you can come slightly softer or a fraction too quick and be half a stride wrong. The earlier you see that the more subtle the changes you make can be.”

## Keep the power on

CHRIS thinks that part of the mare’s inclination to rush is from Joey overcompensating and shortening the canter in the approach to a fence.



**Above:** ‘Legs must mean go,’ says Chris. After a refusal, Joey reminds her mare of this using transitions around the arena

“You like to slow her down because you feel safer there, but you need more canter,” explains Chris. “A good, forward canter gives the horse more power to jump. Then it will feel easier, she will stay confident and have a better idea of where her legs are.

“At the moment she’s seeing a fence and saying, ‘We need to go’. Then she gets confused and gets her legs tangled.” Joey steers Mrs Brown around a course of showjumps to finish. They clear each one confidently.

“Because you had more canter and let her maintain it all the way to a fence the mare looked much happier,” concludes Chris. “You’ve been able to give her confidence over bigger fences today because of the distance exercise. Use it at home and then do a course, but don’t have the jumps so big.”

Joey adds that Mrs Brown feels more confident in front of a fence.

“I’ll use the exercise again because it was a confidence giver for both of us, and the rhythm and balance felt so much better.” **H&H**

• *This shoot took place at Parwood Equestrian near Guildford, Surrey, which holds regular events and training clinics. Visit [www.parwood.co.uk](http://www.parwood.co.uk)*



**Above:** halting in the middle of the combination after the second canter stride. Right: Mrs Brown then snaps up after a halt-canter transition with a tidier, more powerful jump





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# Gina Ellis

It's been a busy year for reigning female point-to-point champion Gina Ellis, but her practical new yard, effective training methods and exciting new string have the makings of a promising season, finds **Aimi Clark**

**I**MAGINE getting married and moving house within a few weeks of each other; then also factor in a string of point-to-pointers plus a bedridden husband with a broken leg. That was the position Gina Ellis (née Andrews) found herself in in June, when she was crowned the overall female point-to-pointing champion for a second time.

"Never again," says the 23-year-old, deadpan, of that frantic month. "Tom and I were supposed to go on horseback safari for our honeymoon. But because of his leg we went to Mauritius, where it rained all week."

When *H&H* visits Heath Barn, near Rugby, on a wet October morning the couple have 18 pointers in training — up from eight last season — and eight pre-trainers for National Hunt trainer Dan Skelton.

Gina intends to defend her champion title in 2016

but Tom, whom she met at the South Midlands point-to-point awards dinner six years ago, has hung up his racing boots.

"I haven't recovered as well as I would have liked," states the 31-year-old, whose fall at Mollington, in which he broke his tibia and fibia in two places, has left him with a rod from his knee to ankle and screws in either end.

"My heart's not in the riding anymore and there's so much going on at home now — it's time to focus on that."

By the time the couple sit down for breakfast at 8.15am with their staff — Charlie Tiso, Charley Batchelor, Lauren Roberts and school half-term recruit Tia Wayland — all 26 thoroughbreds are fed and mucked out.

Yard jeans are swapped for breeches at 9am sharp.

**Tom and Gina, pictured with their lurcher Jake and terrier Milly, moved into Heath Barn five months ago. They have 18 pointers in training — 'When the season starts we will be flat out,' says Gina**





Gina and four-year-old Gitris set the pace on the gallops, ahead of Tom on Fred



It's a case of all hands on deck to wash off each horse post-exercise



Steam rising, the first group recover on a loose rein after cantering five laps on each rein



Celtic Silver schools over fences with Gina. 'We jump once a week – not massive fences, just enough to get them off the floor'

"Gina rides six horses, the rest of us take out five," says Tom as he walks the 30 steps from his home — a barn converted 25 years ago for his late grandmother to live in — to the yard that was completed this summer.

"We built this ourselves bar a firm doing the floor. The steel went up in a day and a half, then the walls and stables. It's exactly how we want it."

The alleyway is wide enough to fit a Bobcat tractor, enabling muck to be scraped away after being thrown into the middle.

"No wheelbarrow journeys saves so much time," says Tom.

The first group — Gitris, Fred, Helpston, Sea Current and Frost — leave the yard at 9.40am. They hack along the lane to the front gate — approximately half a mile — on a loose rein, before looping back to the gallop track.

Today's agenda is two laps in trot before cantering five on each rein. The horses work in single file, Gina setting the pace on the Jones/Ellis-owned four-year-old Gitris.

Charlie and Shona Westrope's seven-year-old Sea Current set off half a lap behind.

"He settles better like that; when he's with the others he's a bit keen," explains Tom. "We keep the young horses close together to teach them to keep going. On their own they just lummo along."

When the horses pull up they are blowing.

"They've done two lots of 20 furlongs — two-and-a-half miles — this morning, but they don't do that much every day," says Gina (see box, p44), who rates the 17.2hh Helpston.

Partnered by Charley today, the 11-year-old's card includes second in the Rowland Meyrick Chase at Wetherby on Boxing Day 2011.

"He hasn't run for a couple of years, probably because he's so big," says Gina.

## A TYPICAL DAY

**6.15am** Gina feeds the 18 horses on the top yard.

Charlie Tiso

oversees the eight pre-breakers at the lower yard.

**7am** The rest of the staff arrive and mucking out begins.

**8.15am** Everyone stops for breakfast

**9am** The first group of horses are ridden. They canter every day.

**1pm** Riding is complete. Horses have a lunchtime feed.

**Afternoon** The girls have a couple of hours off, and Tom goes to work on his father's 1,100-acre farm. Gina remains at Heath Barn, doing odd jobs such as clipping.

**4pm** The staff return and evening stables begins.

**6pm** The aim is to be finished by now.

"His owner Pam Sly bred and trained him," she continues. "If he stands up to the work he will be good — hunter chasing material."

## No time to waste

PART-TIME groom Sarah Bain has five buckets ready for washing down. With a cooler on, each horse goes on the walker and the next lot are tacked up.

"We could do with another member of staff but it's hard to find someone who can cope with the workload, as well as being capable on the horses," muses Gina as she saddles up the Foureights partnership's Ginuwinefizz.

"He's four and ran in bumpers for Dan last season, but Dan thinks he will benefit from some pointing."

Each horse has a towel under its numnah to prevent it becoming soaked in sweat and needing to be swapped after every ride.

"The towels are washed and dried every day, which is much easier to do than with numnahs."

Across the yard, Tom prepares Brian, another four-year-old, by Brian Boru.

"He was tricky last season and would lie down when he'd had enough. Wearing a hood has sorted that," states Tom.

With the barn accessible from either end, horses circle around the yard while waiting for the rest. "It





Young horses work in single file on the oval gallop track. 'We keep them close together – on their own they just lummo along,' says Tom

stops them getting cold or impatient," says Gina.

The second group leaves the yard at 10.30am. The work pattern is the same, with Gina leading. Charley follows on the Bournes' seven-year-old Samarni, with Brian and Tara More – a six-year-old owned by Julia Shaw and Kevin Rolls – working alongside each other. Lauren and By Misternando, a three-year-old, are at the rear.

"Being side-by-side helps urge Brian along," explains Tom.

### Other avenues

JUST after 11am, Charlie, Charley and Lauren drive next door to Elms Farm – where Tom's parents live – to exercise the pre-trainers.

Tom and Gina's hunters are also stabled there.

"We hunt at least once a week with the Warwickshire – it's our day off," says Gina, before mounting the Haywards' Celtic Silver, who came from Ireland's Edward O'Grady last season.

Tom partners My Alfie. "We got him unbroken from Ascot sales three years ago – he's the first we bought and trained to a win together," says Tom of the Oak Syndicate's seven-year-old.

The pointers began their season preparation six weeks earlier, and they had their first jump four days ago. Today Celtic Silver will jump again.

After pulling up My Alfie, Tom dismounts and drags a line of barrels on to one side of the track, and a hurdle on the other.

"They aren't massive fences, just enough to get them off the floor."

Celtic Silver does three laps over the fences on both reins. "They won't always meet it right around here so they learn to fiddle and put a short one in or see a long one and go," says Tom.

Gina, who contested Foxhunter classes during the



The spotless tack room where everything has its place – vital as Gina's yard is completely full and good organisation is at a premium

## KEEP FIT

- THE number of canter circuits the horses do each day varies. "Today they did 10, but they only started doing that much this week," says Gina.

"On Monday they did three each way and yesterday they did four. Tomorrow they will do three again and keep the pattern going.

"It builds each week, starting with just trotting when they first came in, until they are doing longer distances regularly."

- The speed doesn't change on the gallop track.

"We keep a good active canter – no faster because of the bends," adds Gina.

- There is a 40-acre meadow a 15-minute hack away for faster work and schooling over brush fences.

- Alternatively, Gina boxes up and travels 35 minutes to Dan's Sheffield Green base. "We start the fast work six weeks before a horse's first run. I like to do five trips to Dan's before they race," says Gina.

- The amount of work is adjusted to suit each horse.

"Babies who have never been fit before need to do more to build core fitness. A day at the races takes so much out of them mentally, and training in different places helps them cope."

## THREE TO WATCH



### SEA CURRENT

The seven-year-old by Pilsudski ran in novice chasers for Dan Skelton last year.

"I really like 'Sid' and he's keen in training," says Gina. "I hope he will go up the grades quickly."



### FROST

The Hodge-owned Frost, a six-year-old by Fair Mix, came from Doncaster sales in September. He won a maiden in Ireland. "Frost is genuine. A trier, but polite."



### TOTAL COMPLIANCE

This six-year-old bay by Milan picked up some placings last season.

"He's a real strong bull of a horse who takes a lot of work at home. His owner, Penny Rogers, has been a big supporter of mine and all her horses win."



Full production: after being ridden out and washed down, each horse goes on the walker to unwind while the next group is taken out

off-season, draws on her showjumping experience.

"Racing doesn't help in showjumping because I go too fast, but showjumping helps racing – I can see a stride as soon as I come around the corner," she says.

With 11 horses still to exercise, there is time for a coffee break at 12pm.

"Last season was a write-off because we had a bug through the yard and never really got rid of it," says Tom. "It works having the pre-trainers separate. Last year we had lots of horses coming and going, but we're full up here now so that won't happen – essentially we're quarantined."

Once the season kicks off on Saturday, team Ellis will be flat out. As Gina picks up rides, her brother Jack will school a few horses when she is away.

"We haven't really thought about it because Tom has only just decided to retire," says Gina. "Basically we will get the best jockey available."

"We go all over to race. Early season we travel east because the ground is good, then we like to go to the West Country because it's competitive. I'm chasing a title so I'll go where I can win." **H&H**

● NEXT WEEK: **H&H** interview with Will Biddick

# Safety is our mission

For Charles Owen, providing the safest possible helmets and body protectors is a 365 days a year operation

**A**ping from his smartphone signals the arrival of another accident report detailing how, yet again, a rider's life has been saved. Roy Burek, managing director of Charles Owen, receives about three accident reports a day, and these remind him that safety is a 365-day-a-year mission.

"You read about another rider falling from their horse and you know that there is still much to do," says Roy, who is also the top designer and safety researcher at Charles Owen. "It is our mission: to make the riding world a safer place. The horse has so much to offer us that it is vital that we reduce the risk as much as possible."

Making that happen isn't just about dreaming of new innovations. It takes a whole team of people to produce a single helmet or body protector.

This is where Charles Owen strives to do the impossible — analysing the design of each product to see how it reduces injury. The process starts with the helmet, ensuring sufficient

protection against brain injury, and follows with body protection. It is an endless quest for perfection.

Once the products have been fully tested, the focus moves on to fit. It is often stated that fit is essential to the wearer's safety. If the fit is poor, the rider could be exposed to injury.

**'The horse has so much to offer us that it is vital that we reduce the risk as much as possible'**

**Roy Burek**

Managing director, Charles Owen

Too tight, and you can disable one of the primary defences of the body. It is where Charles Owen and Airowear staff spend a lot of time in the field trying on helmets and body protectors, adjusting them and sending their feedback straight to the design team.

Once the design of a product is complete and ready for production, no vital process is trusted outside of the company. "After so much has been



Roy Burek, managing director of Charles Owen, says his team is committed to an endless quest for perfection



Charlotte Dujardin: 'I trust Charles Owen to take care of me with safety and style'

programmed into protecting the rider, we must ensure the quality of each product," stresses Roy. "We have created one of the largest equestrian manufacturing units in Britain with more than 80,000sq ft and 140 people making as many as 120,000 helmets and 50,000 body protectors each year."

For many, safety is just staying out of trouble, but for Charles Owen, it is its life blood, 365 days a year. Charles Owen is one of Britain's finest equestrian institutions, the bearer of a legacy that has taken more than a 100 years to build, and very much at the cutting edge of injury prevention. **H&H**

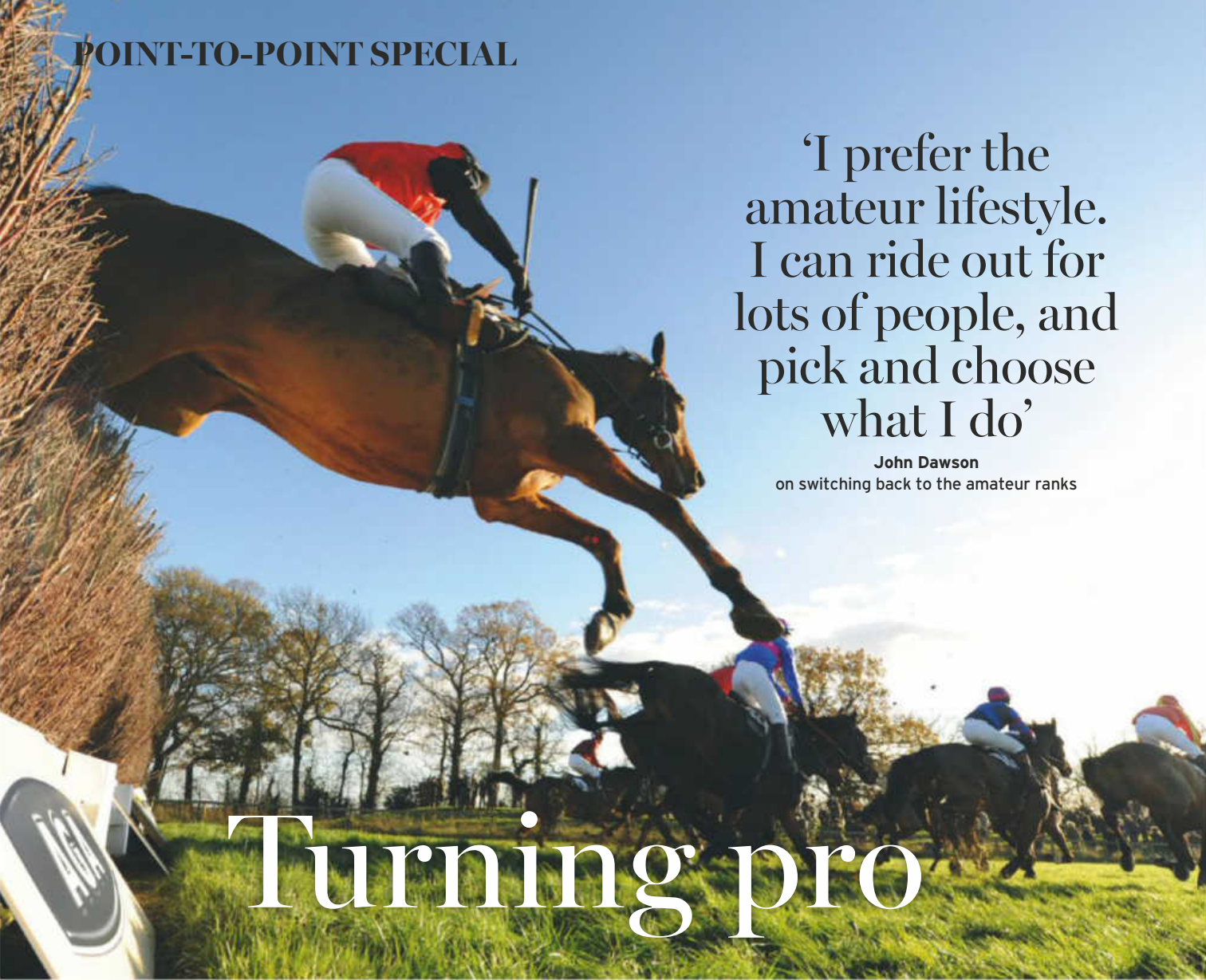


Harry Meade: 'My Airowear is flexible and comfortable, allowing me to perform at my best while keeping me safe'



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‘I prefer the amateur lifestyle. I can ride out for lots of people, and pick and choose what I do’

**John Dawson**  
on switching back to the amateur ranks

# Turning pro

Point-to-pointing is a fertile breeding ground for budding professional jockeys — but how do you make the leap from amateur to riding under Rules? **Catherine Austen** takes advice

**M**ANY racing-mad teenagers dream of being jockeys. Their heroes are AP McCoy and Richard Johnson, and they want to emulate them. So, as soon as they can persuade their parents it's a good idea, they start riding in point-to-points. Some of them do well.

But how do they turn professional and ride under Rules — and should they?

Point-to-point ranks are a fertile breeding ground for professional jockeys. Clare Hazell, chief executive of the Point-to-Point Authority (PPA), says that 55% of riders with UK licences started in point-to-points.

However, just because someone's been a hit between the flags, it doesn't necessarily follow that they are going to be the next Sam Twiston-Davies.

First of all, to become a conditional jockey (the National Hunt version of an apprentice on the Flat) they need to be a full-time, paid employee of a licensed trainer. That trainer must send them on a four- or five-day course at either the British Racing School or the Northern Racing College.

Once that has been successfully completed, the

person must apply for a licence, pay a fee and submit a medical report from their doctor.

Those are the essentials. But what are the experiences of those who have moved from point-to-pointing to professional race-riding?

Nick Scholfield holds the plum position of second jockey to Paul Nicholls, and the 26-year-old followed in his former national champion father's footsteps into point-to-pointing as a 16-year-old.

“I had 10 rides in my first season, one winner and a few falls,” says Nick. “The second season I was national novice champion with 25 winners. I was lucky — I had a very good mare [Sea Snipe] on whom I won 10, and I got some outside rides for Richard Barber.

“Point-to-point is such a great place to learn. Without that experience I wouldn't have been able to capitalise on my first chance for Paul when I won at Newbury on Lou Du Moulin Mas in November 2006.”

In Nick's third season of riding, he was champion amateur under Rules, and then turned conditional.

“Pointing is the spitting image of riding under Rules, but without the pressure or the intense scrutiny,” says Nick. “It's good to be able to make



  
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## WANT TO RIDE IN A POINT-TO-POINT?

ANYONE wanting to ride in a point-to-point must read the British Horseracing Authority (BHA)'s guide, available as a download called *In the Saddle* from [www.pointtopoint.co.uk](http://www.pointtopoint.co.uk). Plus –

- You must be 16 or over
- You must not have held a professional jockey's licence – or, if you have, you must not have ridden 25 or more winners
- You must obtain a Riders' Qualification Certificate (RQC), either one that only allows you to ride in one hunt members' race or one that allows you to ride throughout the season in all the races for which you are eligible. You are likely to need to complete a medical report form, signed by your doctor. You will need to pay a fee
- Horses must obtain a Hunter's Certificate, stating that they have hunted for at least four days in the season

mistakes and learn without the whole world watching, and point-to-point people are often more forgiving.

"It can be daunting to go straight onto a racecourse without knowing how it all works, and there wasn't pony racing when I started. So pointing gives you valuable experience in all sorts of ways."

### Making alliances

TOM MESSENGER, 30, has been a professional jump jockey for 11 years.

He started point-to-pointing on a horse trained by his mother when he was still at school, having ridden out at Caroline Bailey's yard since he was 14. Then he went to work first for Ian Williams and then for Ben Pollock.

"The key is you must get the rides, otherwise there is no point in turning conditional," says Tom. "A lot of it is who you know, and building up connections is vital. Some lads are very busy pointing but don't have the connections under Rules, so the rides dry up. It's all about having a boss who can support and help you."

Charlie Deutsch, 19, is having his second incarnation as a pro and is based with Venetia Williams in Herefordshire.

"I was desperate to race-ride, and I started point-to-pointing aged 16 on two horses we had at home," says Charlie, who won the Wilkinson Sword Novice

**Above left: pony riders weigh in at Buckfastleigh point-to-point – many young jockeys dream of going professional, and weight is an important consideration**

Award for the leading rider under 21 in the 2012/13 season, having ridden seven winners between the flags and two under Rules.

"I was planning on a second season's point-to-pointing, but Charlie Longsdon suggested I turned conditional – so I did," he adds. "I did that for two seasons, then last spring I decided to go back to being an amateur."

Charlie rode nine winners from 10 rides for Tom Lacey, all on four-year-olds, and rode 13 pointing winners, plus one in a bumper. He has since turned conditional again.

"I think I turned conditional too early the first time," he admits. "If I did it again I'd have done at least two years as an amateur. After all, a race is a race, whether it is a point-to-point or a race under Rules – it's all experience. You want to make sure you've got everything you can out of pointing. If you can be at the top of your game and doing well there, you'll have a chance under Rules. There are some really, really good amateurs who are not pros only because they are too heavy. And there are some very good horses in pointing – the only difference is that you get changed in a tent instead of a warm building!"

**Below: John Dawson made the switch to riding pro but has since returned to amateur ranks, preferring the autonomy it allows**

### On the scales

WEIGHT is an important consideration.

Nick Scholfield says: "Weight is a big thing. If you can get as near to 10st as you can be, it will help."

John Dawson was Yorkshire point-to-point champion aged 22 and turned conditional soon after. He switched back to amateur ranks last season.

"I went to work for John Wade when I left school at 18 and I got a lot of rides under Rules as an amateur. But, of course, I wasn't getting paid for them," he explains.

Once an amateur has had more than 75 rides in races open to professional riders, a fee must be paid to the British Horseracing Authority.

"By the time they'd paid for me and given me something for my petrol, it made me more expensive than AP McCoy! So I thought I'd try it as a professional – I'd have regretted it if I hadn't given it a go," adds John.

"I prefer the amateur lifestyle. As a pro, you have to eat, sleep and breathe racing 24/7. Now, as an amateur again, I can spread myself and ride out for lots of people, and pick and choose what I do." **H&H**



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Chariot drivers in ancient Rome were the first to have colourful racing gear

# The story behind the colours

Racing silks add an element of fun to racing, but there is no joking about their importance, with many steeped in history, discovers **Stephanie Bateman**

**C**LOURFUL, shiny and flamboyant, racing silks have been around for centuries, with their main purpose being to identify who is who on the racetrack. Designing silks has become a bit of an art, so how do people decide on the colours and patterns?

Some might say that the pub is a great place for inspiration, and Brian “Mange” Morane would agree.

Nearly 30 years ago, Mange started up the Coach House Racing syndicate, named after his local pub The Coach House in Rottingdean, Sussex. The chosen racing colours were the same as the pub’s football team shirts — black with grey stripes.

“We were friendly with Darren Edmeads, who has run the pub for the past 28 years, so we thought what better than using the pub’s colours,” remembers Mange. “We ran Willow Blue, who was trained by the late Thomas McGovern. He had form in Ireland but burst a blood vessel and never forgot it.

“We also had Hard Rock Miner, who ran on the Flat in our colours and finished third at Lingfield.”

Derek Freathy owns Gift Of Dreams and has a

share in hunter chase winner Vincitore, both trained and ridden by Claire Hart. They run in Derek’s colours of red with emerald green cross belts, dark blue sleeves and a dark blue cap with a white star.

“The reason for this combination is my great interest in rugby union,” explains Derek. “These are the colours of the British and Irish Lions rugby team. The red of Wales, emerald green of Ireland, dark blue of Scotland and the white of England.”

Inspiration can come from places you least expect. After watching her best friend Mia Hems’ younger sister Maddie battle with cancer, 16-year-old Lilly Pinchin decided that she would ride in colours that represent the brave 12-year-old.

Maddie was only eight when a cancerous tumour was found under her collarbone. She went to the US for proton therapy, which has helped to destroy the cancer, but the tumour couldn’t be removed and the threat of cancer returning remains.

“When I started point-to-pointing, I needed new colours, and what better way to raise awareness of Maddie’s ‘Fighting Fund’, which supports



Sentimental, eye-catching or accidental – the choice of colours often has an interesting story

Birmingham Children’s Hospital, than to ride in colours that she has designed,” said Lilly who works for Fergal O’Brien. “Maddie loves hearts, and her design includes one on the pink body and three on the blue arms.”

‘I’d rather sell my farm than my colours’

AFTER buying a horse at Doncaster sales over 50 years ago, Midlands trainer Milson Robinson was determined to ride it in point-to-points, but his parents had other ideas.

“My father was a strict Methodist and didn’t believe in gambling, so wouldn’t set foot on a point-to-point course until I started riding in them,” mused Milson. “I didn’t have any colours and had to ask a farm worker’s wife to knit me a set.

“Mum said that I’d better have a white cap so that she would be able to spot me, and it really does stand out.”

Milson still has winners running in his colours of red, blue sleeves and a white cap, including Panama Canal who last year took the Quorn Gold Cup.

“Those colours have been in the family for over 50 years and mean so much to me,” added Milson. “I would rather sell my farm than my colours, although I would sell them to Prince Charles, as his colours are nearly identical bar the black cap — I think my white cap looks so much better.”

Sometimes, the choice of racing colours happens purely by accident.

“My mum [trainer Cherry Coward] is terrible at washing clothes, and ended up making another set from our colours as the pink turned into turquoise,” laughs jockey Jacqueline Coward. “The other set is now registered with our friends and owners Mark and Steph Spencer.” **H&H**



Lilly Pinchen’s colours were designed by cancer patient Maddie Hems

FUN FACTS

- There are approximately 14,400 sets of silks registered with Weatherbys.
- Chariot drivers in Ancient Rome were the first to sport colours, in the form of coloured capes and headbands.
- The first mention of silks was in 1515 when Henry VIII was king, although their use became established in the latter part of the 17th century during the reign of Charles II and Queen Anne.
- In 1762, 19 members of The Jockey Club registered their colours at Newmarket for the first time.
- The “straw” colours registered by the Duke of Devonshire in 1762 are still used by the family’s racing stable and are thought to be the oldest racing colours in existence.
- A set of silks can weigh as little as 150g.
- Modern silks are made of nylon and lycra to make them more aerodynamic, but alongside the traditional silk, it wasn’t unusual for them to be knitted from fine wool, which is still seen on the point-to-point circuit today.

FIXTURES LIST  
2015/2016

**SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER**  
Black Forest Club,  
BLACK FOREST LODGE  
Cambridge University United Hunts  
Club, COTTENHAM

**SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER**  
Point-to-Point Owners & Riders Club,  
BARBURY RACECOURSE

**SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER**  
Hursley Hambledon LARKHILL  
Cornwall Hunt Club, WADEBRIDGE  
Ratclough Racing Club, ALNWICK

**MONDAY 28 DECEMBER**  
Harkaway Club,  
CHADDESLEY CORBETT

**SUNDAY 3 JANUARY**  
Cambridgeshire Harriers Hunt Club,  
COTTENHAM  
Larkhill Racing Club, LARKHILL

**SUNDAY 10 JANUARY**  
Dunston Harriers, AMPTON  
North Cornwall, WADEBRIDGE  
Yorkshire Area Point-to-Point Club,  
SHERIFF HUTTON

**SUNDAY 17 JANUARY**  
Silverton, BLACK FOREST LODGE

**SATURDAY 23 JANUARY**  
Royal Artillery, LARKHILL

**SUNDAY 24 JANUARY**  
Heythrop, COCKLEBARROW  
North Norfolk Harriers, HIGHAM  
Tiverton, CHIPLEY PARK  
West Percy, ALNWICK

**SUNDAY 31 JANUARY**  
Jedforest, FRIARS HAUGH  
South Dorset,  
MILBORNE ST ANDREW  
West Wales Area Club, LYDSTEP

**SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY**  
Albrighton & Woodland (North),  
CHADDESLEY CORBETT  
Brooksbys, BROCKLESBY PARK  
Cambridgeshire with Enfield Chase,  
HORSEHEATH  
Combined Services, LARKHILL  
Western, WADEBRIDGE

**SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY**  
Cambridge University Draghounds,  
COTTENHAM

**SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY**  
Midlands Area Club, THORPE LODGE  
Percy, ALNWICK  
Sinnington, DUNCOMBE PARK  
South East Hunts Club, CHARING  
South Pool Harriers, BUCKFASTLEIGH  
Vine & Craven, BARBURY

**SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY**  
Countryside Alliance Club (Wessex),  
BADBURY RINGS  
Curry & Llangibby, HOWICK  
East Cornwall, GREAT TRETHEW  
Sir W. W. Wynne’s, BANGOR-ON-DEE  
South Durham Hunt Farmers Club,  
MORDON  
Waveney Harriers, HIGHAM

**SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY**  
Thurrow, HORSEHEATH

**SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY**  
Cottesmore, GARTHORPE  
Mid Devon, BLACK FOREST LODGE  
New Forest, LARKHILL  
Tyndale, CORBRIDGE  
West of York, ASKHAM BRYAN  
COLLEGE

**SATURDAY 5 MARCH**  
Brecon & Talyllyn, LLANFRYNACH  
Duke of Beaufort’s, DIDMARTON  
East Devon, BISHOPS COURT  
Kingston Blount Racing Club,  
KINGSTON BLOUNT

**SUNDAY 6 MARCH**  
Blackmore & Sparkford Vale,  
CHARLTON HORETHORNE  
College Valley & North  
Northumberland, ALNWICK  
Derwent, CHARM PARK  
Mid Surrey Farmers Drag,

GODSTONE  
Ross Harriers, GARNONS  
South Wold, BROCKLESBY PARK

**SATURDAY 12 MARCH**  
Crawley & Horsham, PARHAM  
Duke of Buccleuch’s, FRIARS HAUGH  
Quantock, COTHELSTONE

**SUNDAY 13 MARCH**  
Bicester with Whaddon Chase,  
WHITFIELD  
Curry & Llangibby, HOWICK  
Dart Vale & Haldon Harriers,  
BUCKFASTLEIGH

Flint & Denbigh, BANGOR-ON-DEE  
Hampshire, HACKWOOD PARK  
Holderness, DALTON PARK  
Suffolk, AMPTON

**SATURDAY 28 MARCH**  
Belyor, GARTHORPE  
Hunworth, HUTTON RUDDY  
Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire and  
Eglington, OVERTON  
V.W.H. SIDDINGTON  
Wilton, MILBORNE ST ANDREW

**SUNDAY 20 MARCH**  
Lamerton, KILWORTHY  
Mendip Farmers, STON EASTON  
Oakley, BRAFIELD-ON-THE-GREEN  
Old Surrey, Burslow & West Kent,  
PENSURST  
South Herefordshire, GARNONS

**EASTER SATURDAY, 26 MARCH**  
Ashford Valley Tickham, CHARING

Avon Vale, LARKHILL  
Badsowth & Bramham Moor,  
ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE  
East Cornwall, GREAT TRETHEW  
Glamorgan, YSTRADOWN  
Kimblewick, KIMBLE  
Ledbury, MAISEMORE PARK  
North Staffordshire, SANDON  
Puckridge, HORSEHEATH  
Vale of Lune, WHITTINGTON  
Woodland Pytchley, DINGLEY

**EASTER MONDAY, 28 MARCH**  
Cumberland Farmers, DALSTON  
East Kent with West Street,  
ALDINGTON  
Four Burrow, TREBUDANNON  
North Cotswold, PAXFORD  
North Shropshire, EYTON-ON-SEVERN  
Old Berkshire, LOOKINGE  
South Notts, THORPE LODGE  
South Pembrokeshire, LYDSTEP  
Stairtondale, CHARM PARK  
Taunton Vale, KINGSTON ST MARY  
Vine & Craven, HACKWOOD PARK

**SATURDAY 2 APRIL**  
Croome & West Warwickshire,  
UPTON-UPON-SEVERN  
Essex & Suffolk, HIGHAM  
Mormouthshire, LLANVAPELY

**SUNDAY 3 APRIL**  
Berwicksire, FRIARS HAUGH  
Middleton, SHERIFF HUTTON  
North Ledbury, HEREFORD  
RACECOURSE  
Portman, BADBURY RINGS  
Spooners & West Dartmoor,  
CHERRYBROOK

**SATURDAY 9 APRIL**  
Bedale, HORNBY CASTLE  
Cotley, COTLEY  
Essex, HIGH EASTER  
North Warwickshire Hunt Club,  
MOLLINGTON

**SUNDAY 10 APRIL**  
Andoversford Races (The Cotswold),  
ANDOVERSFORD  
Cheshire Forest, TABLEY  
Eggesford, UPCOTT CROSS  
Morpeth, TRANWELL  
Pytchley, GUILDSBOROUGH  
Southdown & Enidge, GODSTONE  
Tewdworth, BARBURY  
Temple Valley and United,  
BRAMPTON BRYAN  
Ystad Taff Fechan, YSTRADOWN

**SATURDAY 16 APRIL**  
Braes of Derwent, CORBRIDGE  
Dartmoor Foxhounds, FLETE PARK  
Kimblewick, KINGSTON BLOUNT  
Llangenor, DUNRAVEN STUD  
Old Surrey, Burslow & West Kent,  
PENSURST  
Worcestershire,  
CHADDESLEY CORBETT

**SUNDAY 17 APRIL**  
Atherstone, CLIFTON-ON-DUNSMORE  
Cleveland, MORDON  
Cotswold Vale Farmers,  
ANDOVERSFORD  
Seavington, LITTLEWINDSOR  
West Norfolk, FAKENHAM

**SATURDAY 23 APRIL**  
Chiddingfold, Leconfield & Cowdray,  
PARHAM  
Fife, BALCORMO MAINS  
Ludlow, BITTERLEY  
Quorn, GARTHORPE

**SUNDAY 24 APRIL**  
Axe Vale, STAFFORD CROSS  
Clifton-on-Teme, UPPER SAPEY  
Farmers Bloodhounds, WHITFIELD  
Twynside & Carmarthenshire,  
LYDSTEP  
York & Ainsty, EASINGWOLD

**SATURDAY 30 APRIL**  
Berkeley, WOODFORD  
Modbury Harriers, FLETE PARK  
Pendle Forest & Craven, HESLAKE  
South & West Wilts, LARKHILL  
Surrey Union, PEPER HARROW

**SUNDAY 1 MAY**  
Devon & Somerset Staghouids,  
HOLNICOTE  
Ferne, DINGLEY  
Lauderdale, MOSSHUSES  
Radnor & West Hereford,  
COLD HARBOUR

**MONDAY 2 MAY**  
Barwen Miners, LLWYNDU GLAIS  
Cattistock, LITTLEWINDSOR  
Enfield Chase with Cambridgeshire  
Hunt, NORTHAW  
South Shropshire, EYTON-ON-SEVERN  
Stevenson, VAUTHERILL  
Warwickshire, MOLLINGTON  
Zetland, WITTON CASTLE

**SATURDAY 7 MAY**  
Cumberland, ASPATRA  
Kimblewick, KINGSTON BLOUNT  
Minehead Harriers & West Somerset,  
HOLNICOTE  
Wheatland,  
CHADDESLEY CORBETT

**SUNDAY 8 MAY**  
Blisdale, EASINGWOLD  
Four Burrow, TREBUDANNON  
Milton Hunt Club, GARTHORPE  
Tredegar Farmers, LOWER MACHEN

**WEDNESDAY 11 MAY**  
Weston & Banwell Harriers,  
COTHELSTONE

**SATURDAY 14 MAY**  
FitzeWilliam (Milton), DINGLEY  
South Durham, MORDON

**SUNDAY 15 MAY**  
Borlor, HEXHAM  
Dulverton West, BRATTON DOWN  
Golden Valley, BREDWARDINE  
Grafton, WHITFIELD

**SATURDAY 21 MAY**  
Gelligarr Farmers, LOWER MACHEN

**SUNDAY 22 MAY**  
Exmoor, BRATTON DOWN  
Haydon, HEXHAM  
Knudsford Races Club, TABLEY

**SUNDAY 29 MAY**  
Berks & Bucks Draghounds &  
Sandhurst Draghounds, KINGSTON  
BLOUNT  
North Hereford, HEREFORD  
RACECOURSE  
West Somerset Vale, COTHELSTONE

**MONDAY 30 MAY**  
Albrighton & Woodland (South),  
CHADDESLEY CORBETT  
South Telcott, UPCOTT CROSS

**SATURDAY 4 JUNE**  
Meynell & South Staffordshire,  
GARTHORPE  
Pembrokeshire, TRECCOED

**SUNDAY 5 JUNE**  
Tiverton Staghouids,  
BRATTON DOWN

**SATURDAY 11 JUNE**  
Torrington Farmers, UMBERLEIGH





# Head for the hills

## South Shropshire, Pontesbury, Shrops

7 November

By Will Cursham

If you want to experience an opening meet set against a glorious autumn backdrop, then I suggest you visit the South Shropshire's opening fixture at Gatten Lodge. Set in a valley about six miles to the south of Pontesbury in Shropshire, Gatten Lodge – the home of former master and huntsman Pamela Sykes – commands views across the valleys and hills of Shropshire and 50 miles beyond.

Hounds meet on the lawn in front of the Lodge and from here you can see the English countryside laid out in front of you, clothed in its finest autumn garb of browns, russets, golds, yellows and reds.

The South Shropshire has been meeting here for 15 years

and today was no exception.

Sixty mounted followers, and as many on foot, had gathered on the lawn. Earlier, sheets of rain had swept across the landscape, but these had disappeared, replaced by light cloud and glimpses of sunshine.

At the centre of the throng stood the South Shropshire's talismanic joint-master and

huntsman, Otis Ferry, along with a mixed pack of 16½ couple of modern English foxhounds, flanked by kennel-huntsman Guy Fitzearle and whipper-in Henry Bailey.

Huntsman, horses and staff were impeccably turned out, with Otis sporting a particularly smart pair of beige breeches. He has clearly inherited the

sartorial elegance of his father Bryan, of Roxy Music fame, who was once named the "coolest man in Britain".

Otis, of course, has a reputation that goes well beyond the confines of the hunting world, not least as a fearless and passionate campaigner for hunting. Yet at the same time he has been



The hunt meet at Gatten Lodge, with its beautiful views of the surrounding countryside 'clothed in its finest autumn garb'

Pictures by Peter Nixon



HUNT  
APPOINTMENTS

## FOXHOUNDS

Isle of Wight – 28 Nov, Chequers Inn (newcomers); 2 Dec, Little Pan Farm, Burnthouse Lane; 5, Mottistone Manor Farm, 12.30pm.

## STAGHOUNDS

Devon & Somerset – 26 Nov, Wheddon Cross; 28, Molland Moor Gate, 10.45am

## BLOODHOUNDS

Farmers – 29 Nov, Grange Farm, Evenlode; 6 Dec, Weston, 12 noon.

think that – apart from his mum – I must be one of the longest-standing relationships in his hunting life!” he joked.

Oliver has only two horses, but leads the field on most of the South Shropshire’s days.

He is one of the calmest, most cheerful field masters that you could meet, but he is also one of the most effortless. As hounds left the Warren, he casually turned and popped a five-bar iron gate. I watched in admiration as his girlfriend Amy Henderson and about a dozen others followed suit, including Mia Corrie and hunt ball organiser Sarah Holmes.

For the next hour or so hounds worked patiently to find the trail, while we followed Oliver over an array of hunt rails ▶



Hunt ball organiser Sarah Holmes pops a fence against the stunning backdrop of the South Shropshire country



Lady Alice and Lady Violet Manners enjoy a day out with the South Shropshire

including shoot manager Ivor Fox, joined us at the meet for a glass or two of port. As it turned out, subscriber Nick Brunt, who was out with us today, had bought the day for one of his daughters. There are over 45 shoots in South Shropshire country and there could be no better way of demonstrating the solidarity between the two sports.

Our hostess Pamela Sykes had entertained us royally, but it was now time to get the season proper under way, and I quickly learnt that the South Shropshire do not hang around. No sooner had we left the meet than we sped over a succession of hunt fences, as Otis and the hounds drew the hillsides below us.

joint-master and huntsman here for 11 seasons, quietly building up a superb pack of hounds (see box, p54).

Indeed, Otis has forged himself a reputation as a fine huntsman and his name is an undoubted pull to people who come from far and wide to visit the South Shropshire.

Today, Lady Alice and Lady Violet Manners were paying a visit, watched by their mother, Emma, the Duchess of Rutland.

During the meet I could not help noticing gunshots ringing through the air. These came from the Gatten shoot, a large commercial shoot run on the surrounding Gatten estate. After starting at 9am, the guns,

## Panoramic views

THIS is the South Shropshire’s hill country, and we were soon on the high ground above Gatten Lodge that affords 360° panoramas of the surrounding countryside. As we checked above the Warren, I found

myself gazing across at Shropshire’s second highest hill.

“That’s the Stiperstones, a quartzite ridge,” explained Camilla Corrie. Camilla is in her third season as joint-master here, and looks after the

east of the country.

“I have just about stopped having sleepless nights before my meets,” she joked.

Somehow she manages to fit this in with bringing up four children and running the family farm with her husband Malcolm.

‘I must be one of the longest-standing relationships in his hunting life’

Field master Oliver Roberts on having worked with Otis Ferry for 11 years



Joint-master Sam Boyes stylishly crosses the undulating country

## IN KENNELS

**Joint-masters:** Otis Ferry (2004), Sarah McLean (2007), Walter Blum Gentilomo (2007), Sam Boyes (2011), Camilla Corrie (2013)

**Huntsman:** Otis Ferry

**Kennel-huntsman:** Guy Fitzearle

**Whipper-In:** Henry Bailey

**Secretary:** Patricia Cornes, 01743 874326 or 07714 025043

**Hirelings:** Andrew Callwood, 07768 110275

**Hunting days:** Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.





A long-standing hunting relationship: huntsman Otis Ferry MFH (left) and field master Oliver Roberts have worked together for 11 years

## THE SOUTH SHROPSHIRE HOUNDS

OTIS inherited an excellent pack from his predecessor Michael Rowson, but wanted to add more independence and cry.

"This is not an accessible country; you can't just canter to them – sometimes it can take 20 minutes to get to them, so they need to be independent," he explained.

He therefore introduced Middleton, West Percy and Tynedale blood to the pack. "I am very proud of them," he told me. "Although they have very different attributes they are a uniform bunch, and they hunt as a pack very well."



Little and large: the Teague family enjoy a day out hunting together



The field wind their way up one of the South Shropshire country's many hills

and gates. I was particularly impressed by the number of fences the South Shropshire has put in – there must be at least 50 in this patch of country alone. Without them, it would be almost impossible to cross the country quickly enough to keep up with hounds.

Even though these fences are purpose-built they can catch out the unwary, as they are often perched on the side of steep hills, with steep approaches and sudden drops.

Perhaps this was why Paddy Lindsay, who was trying a new horse, came a-cropper at one, despite clinging on to his horse's neck for nearly 50 yards.

The youngsters in the field were having no such problems though – I saw 11-year-old Henry Hall, and 12-year-old Hannah Spencer, both of whom were having their first full day's hunting, flying over the trickiest of fences like proverbial swallows.

### 'Cry is so important'

WHILE all this was tremendous fun, I was beginning to worry that I would not get to see the South Shropshire hounds at their best. Luckily, however, I was afforded a glimpse of their capabilities as we worked our way down the valley towards Lower Darnford. With its steep, bracken-clad sides, this little valley reminded me of an Exmoorcombe.

I could see them wending their way along the other side of the valley. All of a sudden they began to speak, their clear, strong voices ringing across the valley. As their music swelled, so their pace quickened, and they were now in top gear, crashing across the landscape like an irresistible wave.

After running parallel to the Port Way, they ran on to the flank of the Long Mynd. It was a vertiginous ride as we followed them, first of all along the high ridge parallel to the Port Way, then dipping down into the





Top: Camilla Corrie MFH is now in her third season as a master. Middle: joint-master Sarah McLean rides with Pony Club district commissioner Kate Varley. Above: Beth Evans and hon sec Patricia Cornes against the dramatic backdrop

marvellously named Colliesford Gutter, before climbing again on to the Long Mynd, where we swung right-handed to drop into the Ratlinghope valley.

At first I could see them, but soon they were out of sight. Despite the strong winds at the top of the hills, we could still hear hounds. I was reminded of what Otis had told me: "Cry is so important. Hounds can get away from you so easily in this country and you have to be able to stop and listen."

This time, however, they did not get away from us, and we came across them again near Lower Darnford, where they had lost the trail. It had been a circular hunt of about 30

minutes and although it was a shame that it had petered out here, I was pleased that I had seen a glimpse of what these hounds can do.

After this we moved down to the lower country around Betchcott, where our day drew to a close. By now only Oliver, Amy Henderson, Will Onions and I remained.

As we waited for Otis in the gathering dusk I reflected on what he had told me about this country when I had spoken to him the night before: "Why would you want to be anywhere other than somewhere as wild and beautiful as Shropshire, with so many kindred spirits?" Why, indeed? **H&H**

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Huntsman Bones Allibone with his mixed pack leading the field home across Exmoor at the end of the day

# Stunning in the sun

**Dulverton Farmers,  
Dulverton, Exmoor**

31 October

By Mark Hankinson

**E**XMOOR seems to have a unique weather system: it can be bright sunshine at home in Dorset but, 50 miles further west, pouring with rain on the moor. Today was to be no exception but in reverse order. As I headed north from Tiverton to the opening meet of the Dulverton Farmers, the skies cleared and a blazing sun shone through.

Climbing up through glorious Devon valleys I arrived at Chiltons Farm to be greeted by our hosts John and Leslie Haines, who very sportingly hosted last year's opening meet within a week of moving in.

The two lady masters were next on the scene. "Banger" Milton, who joined the mastership in 2008, not only helps on the family farm but runs a B&B, teaches music, is a stalwart of the local amateur dramatics and still walks out hounds most mornings. Susie Maund has notched up 23 seasons as joint-master, ensuring continuity and stability.



'A family affair': whipper-in Fred Allibone, the huntsman's son

"Bones" Allibone has been huntsman for the same period and the benefits of his long experience and knowledge were plain to see. The Dulverton Farmers are very much a family affair; whipping-in to Bones is his son Fred. His daughter Kate and wife Sue are involved in fundraising and are instrumental in the running of the huge knacker round that not only contributes to the goodwill that the hunt enjoys with its farmers, but also generates income.

Completing the kennels team is stud groom Vicky Utting, who is engaged to Fred, and her

assistant Shonah Grey. They had been up since the early hours preparing nine horses for today, among them my mount Derri, a 17.1hh mare better known as Daisy, whom seemed to have quite a fan club.

The farmyard soon filled with a large crowd, both mounted and on foot. These included hunt chairman Rodger Farrant and a couple of old friends from my Shropshire days, keen car follower Barry Evans and Nicky Driver, who had been the Midlands representative for the Countryside Alliance.

Up from Dorset was former

joint-master James Green with daughter Jemima, now wheelchair-bound after an awful car crash in May. She was determined to be at the opening meet and everyone was moved by her bravery.

The mounted ranks were swelled by a large influx of stag hunters whose autumn season had just finished; these included Devon & Somerset joint-master Loveday Miller.

Another visiting master was Liz Matthews from the neighbouring Dulverton West. Liz had kindly lent me one of her hirelings when I last hunted on the moor.

Full of anticipation at her first opening meet was the huntsman's eight-year-old granddaughter Lucy.

## Liquorice allsorts

BONES had a mixed pack of 26½ couple, and by his own admission they were something of a box of liquorice allsorts. They included Old English lines from the Belvoir and York and Ainsty South, as well as Welsh from the Gogerddan and some American, but they looked well and happy. It was a pleasure to watch his relaxed and quiet

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Ella Stevens on former Horse of the Year Show champion hack Royal Trooper, with her daughter Sarah (on the grey)

handling of them on what was to be a very hot and scentless day.

From the meet we had a short hack up to Five Crossways and along to East Anstey Common where trail layers Stuart and Sam Rigby soon had hounds and followers going full pelt across to Venford Moor.

When we pulled up puffing and steaming I met Ella Stevens riding a quality horse whom I learnt was Royal Trooper, now 22 years old, who had been champion hack at Horse of the Year Show in 2002 and 2003.

He was still in fine fettle, though now more accustomed to happy hacking. Ella was accompanying her daughter Sarah, on her second day's hunting.

As we worked our way down the hill I spoke with Ross McConville, who is helping restart the Cheriton Minkhounds, which will be kennelled with the Dulverton Farmers. Ross and his colleagues were still reeling from the tragic death of their young amateur huntsman to be, Melinda Nicolson, who died

suddenly of a heart attack earlier in the week.

With Ross was his wife Sue, who breeds and shows otter hounds. Hounds were soon speaking in the gorse below us and we were away again, round the hill to Whiterocks Down and back in a large semicircle to where we had put in at the start of the day.

We had already seen several herds of Exmoor ponies so I was delighted to find one hunting with us – Claire Philips was riding her champion Exmoor,

## IN KENNELS

**Joint-masters:** Susie Maund (1993), William Roffe-Silvester (2002), Banger Milton (2008)

**Huntsman:** Bones Allibone

**Secretary:** Gill Summersgill,  
07773 005789

**Stud groom:** Vicky Utting

**Trail layers:** Stuart and Sam Rigby

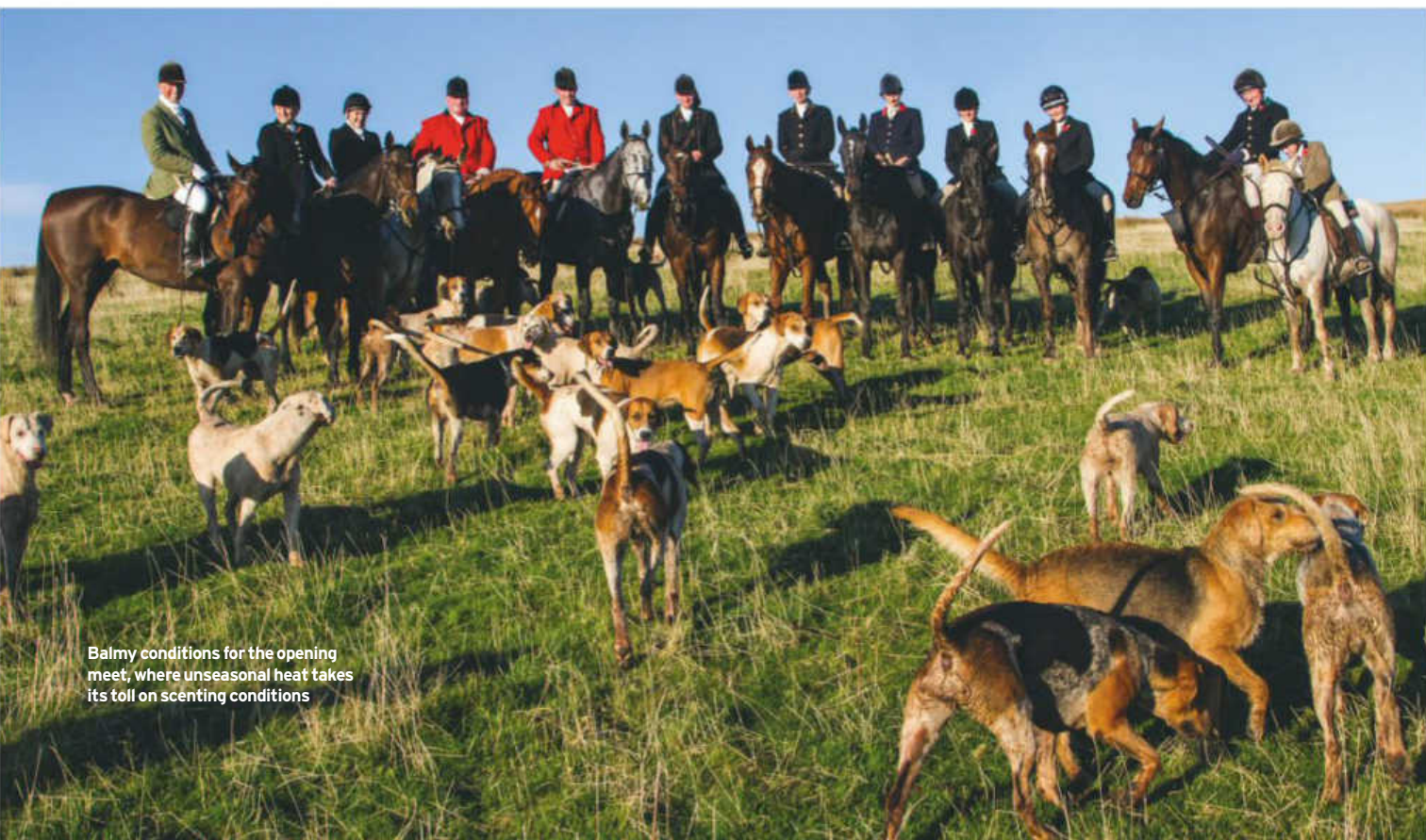
**Days hunted:** Wednesdays & Saturdays

Grouse, who thought nothing of keeping up with horses considerably bigger than him.

## Jinking and scrabbling

THE next trail from Venford Gorse took us further afield, and we clattered down the precipitous tarmac road to the cattle grid by Venford House. Fortunately Derri was well used to such exploits and was admirably sure-footed.

Climbing up Slade Lane we cut across the fields below West Hollowcombe to where we could hear the pack running hard through the large tract of woodland beyond. There then followed a hasty discussion between the foxhunters and the staghunters as to whether we could continue on our present



Balmy conditions for the opening meet, where unseasonal heat takes its toll on scenting conditions





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Henry Moore, 11, and Pinkie pick their way along cattle tracks on the moor



course and get across the nextcombe and into West Hollowcombe Wood. The latter was adamant that there was a hunting wicket somewhere ahead, however the huntsman was not convinced, so we made a quick jink back on to the lane and circled round through the pretty village of Hawkrigde, out on to the ridge beyond where we were once more in touch.

Having run the length of the wood and on to Yamson Coppice, the heat began to take its toll and before long the scent had petered out all together.

As we worked our way upstream past John Pugsley's Zeal Farm I met up with another old friend, Roderick Moore, who – along with wife Arabella – hunted with the Wilton after he retired from the New Forest mastership. With Roderick was his 11-year-old son Henry, on a great little pony named Pinkie.

Recrossing the Dane's brook we scrambled up the far bank through a tight-sided track that had been worn a metre deep by the passage of countless horses and cattle. While we watched from the side of Anstey Rhiney Moor, hounds worked their way through the bracken and gorse of Zeal Brake before hitting off another trail at Shircombe Brake which they took well

round the side of the hill and across to Lyshwell Wood.

Running the length of the wood they crossed back over thecombe to Wester Shircombe and finally to Cloggs. Despite the difficult scenting conditions on this almost summer-like day, everyone remained in good spirits, helped by a plentiful supply of hipflasks and bottles proffered by car followers.

Susie Maund's daughter Fiona was on flying form having just raised £860 for Cancer relief by being "Sober for October". She was keen to make up for lost time!

From Lower Willingford Bridge we headed southward over the moor, working our way past White Post and Ridgeway Cross to Molland Common and down into Poulthouse Combe. Looking westwards toward the sunset was a breathtaking view of the North Devon countryside.

For some time it had seemed as though there were only a handful of us still out with hounds, but suddenly out of nowhere appeared several more groups of riders taking their own route across the moor. One such group included Banger's daughter Rosie Milton, a sports physiotherapist, and her friend Grace Holton, a quantity



Top: Joint-master Banger Milton walks out hounds most mornings.

Above: Susie Maund (right), who has been in the mastership since 1993, with her daughter Fiona  
Right: Jemima Green chats to hounds at the meet

surveyor on a borrowed cob that earlier in the day had been taking full advantage of being hunted in a snaffle rather than its usual more severe ironwork.

Finally with dusk descending the temperature dropped and we had a good view of hounds rattling round Anstey Combe. Noticeable among the lead hounds were Windsor 11 – a son of Mendip Farmers Woburn 05 – and the veteran Chancellor

09 (by Somerset Vale West Boxer 02).

After that we picked our way across to Anstey Gate and that time-honoured après-hunting tradition of cramming into cars to fetch the lorries and boxes from the meet.

On the long drive home it was good to reflect on a happy and welcoming hunt that operates over a stunning bit of country. **H&H**

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'A professor and a chicken': Carl discusses Valegro and Nip Tuck's contrasting conformation and its effects on performance

# Heading Britain's best

**British Dressage National Convention, Hartpury College, Glos**

21-22 November

By Polly Bryan

**W**ITH a "Best of British" theme to this year's convention, the first under British

Dressage (BD) training director Paul Hayler's guidance, it was a fitting finale when Valegro was unveiled as the surprise star turn to round off the weekend.

In a valuable insight into their unique training partnership, Carl Hester and Charlotte Dujardin positioned Nip Tuck and Valegro nose to nose to illustrate the contrast in conformation, before demonstrating these differences in action.

"A professor and a chicken, one with talent, one who's had to learn everything, but both with a great brain," commented Carl affectionately, before explaining how Valegro's compact conformation means he finds it easy to bring his hindleg underneath him, while Nip Tuck's long and leggy frame needs collecting.

Healthy banter between Carl

and Charlotte – "Grandad, get your horse straight, that's only a six" – contributed to a fascinating, entertaining display.

Carl also treated spectators to a preview of Nip Tuck's new freestyle programme, which he hopes to unveil at Olympia. He and Judy Harvey explained the process behind creating the floorplan, cranking up the difficulty to show off the 11-year-old's technical prowess.

At the other end of the scale, Charlotte rode two of Emma Blundell's lovely young Mount St John mares, one of whom, the Vivaldi four-year-old Mount St John VIP, Charlotte has been riding for just two weeks.

Sunday's audience was lucky enough to see the medium open national champion, Mount St John Freestyle (Fidermark x Donnerhall), put through her paces by Charlotte. She demonstrated the use of shoulder-fore, travers and varying the pace and bend to encourage the six-year-old to work in true self-carriage.

"I press the button and I want her to do the work for me," explained Charlotte, before revealing that her Shearwater potential international five-

year-old champion, Florentina, is expecting a Negro foal via embryo transfer.

## Body language

THE third London 2012 gold medallist, Laura Tomlinson, worked with Jayne Turney and Charlotte Dujardin's Cruz III and Sadie Smith and her own Keystone Dynamite. Laura's session focused on encouraging relaxation and use of the seat.

"It's incredible how much our body dictates what the horse does. Often we can do much less than we think and still have the same effect," said Laura.

She encouraged Sadie to collect "Mambo" by "sucking" with her seat and pushing him forwards with her hips, before introducing lateral work interspersed with stretching to maintain relaxation.

With Jayne and "Tom", Laura concentrated on improving the expressive pony's way of going.

"In training it's important to focus on the basics so you have the tools to put what you want into your test," she said.

Laura also displayed the seven-year-old Dolcevendo O, currently working at prix st georges (PSG). The mare is

naturally introverted and Laura has to work to bring her talent to the surface. In contrast, the eight-year-old stallion Duvals Capri Sonne Jr, whose inter I work she demonstrated, eagerly offered bags of power and expression, Laura explaining the importance of discipline to maintain correctness and control.

Laura Woollen (Woodlander Buddy Holly) and Stephanie Sweet (Dolle Jung) acted as guinea pigs for Judy Harvey on the Saturday.

## Para success

PAUL HAYLER put his stamp on the convention with two para seminars, offering spectators an insight into the training behind Britain's success, and the challenges faced by riders.

British para team coach Michel Assouline put Sophie Christiansen (grade Ia) and Natasha Baker (grade II) through their paces aboard Athene Lindebjerg and Sookie St James on day one, while Nina Venables and Angela Weiss worked with grade III and IV riders Deb Criddle (LJT Akilles) and Sophie Wells (C Fatal Attraction) on Sunday. **H&H**

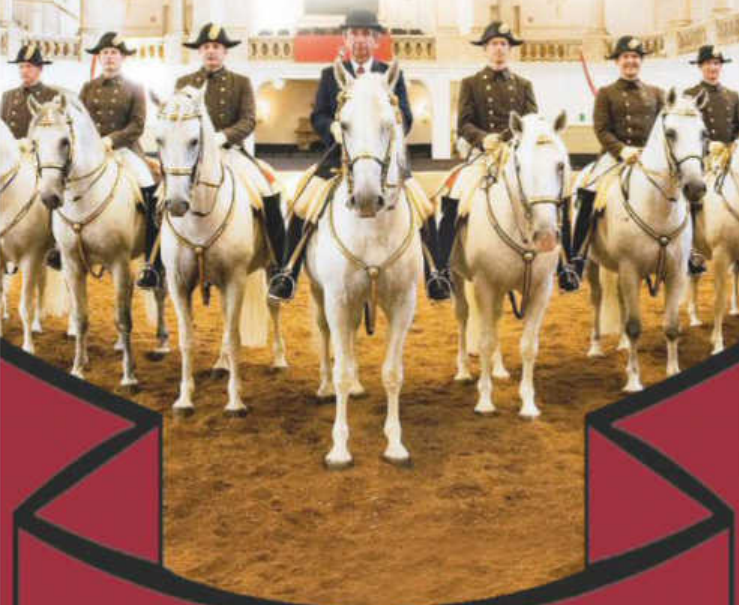
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## WALES &amp; WEST

# Shock win is For Real

This week's round-up features a traditional cob winning on his affiliated debut, a Spanish-bred project horse proving his worth and the final small tour championship qualifiers

**D**EBBIE POYNTER could barely contain her disbelief when she and Keystone For Real won the prix st georges (PSG) freestyle at **Hartpur College, Glos** (14-15 November), on their debut at the level, writes *Andrea Oakes*.

"I just wanted to jump up and down and squeal a lot," said Debbie of her shock at seeing 74.25% appear by their names on the scoreboard – placing them ahead of Georgia Stokes, Maria Eilberg and Lucy Cartwright.

Debbie, who works as a canine hydrotherapist, has experienced six tricky years since buying her Florencio gelding, "Really", when he was four years old.

"He was a nervous youngster and prone to bolting," she explained. "He's still very quirky. We've managed with perseverance and a trainer,

Nicola Buchanan, who had faith in us when I wanted to give up.

"I promised myself that if I got to PSG I'd have my music put together by Tom Hunt," added Debbie. "It's elegant and low-key to suit Really's paces and personality – he's too scared for a loud beat."

Kerry Gibson's home-bred eventer Devils Gold continued a successful comeback after three years off with a suspensory branch injury. The pair headed a competitive novice qualifier at **Hunters EC, Glos** (11 November), on their restricted score of 71.77%.

"I am too addicted to eventing to switch to pure dressage, but I am enjoying this as a challenge," said Kerry, who trains with Rob Lumb and Mary Tidmarsh. "I have my mum, Glynis, to thank as she walked 'Polo' for six months on the Cornish hills to bring him back to fitness."

**WALES & WEST:** 'I wanted to jump up and down and squeal a lot' – Debbie Poynter is delighted with her 74.25% PSG win with Keystone For Real



## SOUTH

## De Groot is Spot On

**SPOT ON XII'S** new dressage career continued to progress when he and Poppy De Groot had a personal best score of 74.8% in a novice at **Fairoak Grange, Berks** (13 November), reports *Helen Triggs*.

The 13-year-old appaloosa had begun stopping while eventing and a foot infection was diagnosed.

"We thought we'd do some dressage and he's gone so well, Poppy's decided not to jump him any more," said Deborah, the rider's mother.

Poppy, 18, is on a gap year and trains with Matt Hicks.

Bowen therapist Krystyna Monks also scored a personal best, winning both novices at **Crofton Manor, Hants**

(14 October), on Dubai, one with 73.79%. Krystyna bought the seven-year-old by Berlin from Nikki Crisp three years ago and trains with Tania Grantham and Andrew Day.

"He's willing and easy to train which is ideal for me as I'm not a professional rider," she said.

Mother and daughter Kathryn and Michaela Marsh notched up two wins apiece at the same venue, riding their home-breds Sapphire Ramall and Tamaryllis Ramall respectively. Sapphire is a five-year-old Showmaker mare who coped well with the windy conditions. Michaela has produced Tamaryllis up to medium, helped by Kathryn, who is a UKCC coach.

Charlotte Rollinson's Kolstein's Don Amigo, a six-year-old Welsh pony bred in Holland, won two novice restricted classes at **Berkshire College** (14 November).

Amigo was totally unfazed by the wet and windy warm-up.

"He lives out 24/7 so was dragged out of a muddy field to come here," said Charlotte, who is now only one point short of qualification for the regionals. "I bought him after seeing him on the internet and falling in love with him."

Charlotte is a territory manager for a pharmaceutical company, having spent three years working in H&H's advertising department after she graduated.



**SOUTH:** Michaela Marsh enjoys a double win with her five-year-old home-bred mare, Tamaryllis Ramall

## I OWE IT TO...

### Studying biomechanics

SUBTLE position changes have boosted scores for Leonie Smith and her Friesian gelding Rommert HW (Bert), who won elementary and medium freestyles at **Summerhouse EC**, Glos (13 November).

"I took Bert on a four-day Mary Wanless course to help my teaching," said freelance trainer Leonie. "Judges had commented that he wasn't swinging over his back. With small adjustments to the position of my pelvis and seatbones, Mary has really helped me get the feel of his back coming underneath him and encouraged more reach in his neck."

"I also knew that our right half-passes weren't as good as those to the left. By focusing on the right side of my core, I saw instant results – our marks have improved."

"Bert was branded dangerous and on the verge of being put to sleep when I got him 18 months ago," added Leonie, who has worked to overcome his aversion to being mounted. "It has taken time to gain his trust, but he tries his heart out."

## SOUTH-EAST

### Sussex success for Salut

SERUPGAARDS SALUT won his first advanced medium on 66.45% at **Step Aside**, West Sussex (12 November), under Sissel Hansen, reports *Celia Cadwallader*.

The 17.1hh gelding (Sam-Sam x Michellino), who impressed Adelinde Cornelissen at her Dressage at Hickstead masterclass in 2013, is now a Sussex resident, having moved to Sune and Emily Ward Hansen's Spring Hill Dressage, near Heathfield, this year.

The 11-year-old is now jointly owned by Lesley Hughes and Danish international rider Sune. Lesley (formerly Kaye) bought him from his Danish breeder Heidi Bickham in 2010.

Sune gave the ride to his 25-year-old stable jockey Sissel



**SOUTH-EAST:** Sissel Hansen pilots Serupgaards Salut (Sam-Sam x Michellino) to a plus-66% victory on the 11-year-old gelding's advanced medium debut

(no relation), when he saw how well the pair worked together.

"Sissel has a lot of patience and feel and is never in a hurry. Salut knew the tricks but he needed to work on the basics, learn to relax and build his confidence," said Sune.

Jaime Edwards used advice from her monthly lesson with Amy Stovold to up her game with her Schwarzenegger x Dream Of Glory nine-year-old Woodcroft Schwarzdiamont.

The duo, who were on 63% in mid-October, were overall winners of the medium 69 with 69.08% at **Pachesham**, Surrey (14 November), and went on to win the restricted section of the medium 73 qualifier with their best score at the level, 73.38%.

Jaime said: "I had a lesson with Amy the day before, so it was fresh in my mind. I thought my simple changes were OK, but she said they were not clean enough. You need someone to point out things like that when you're training alone."

## NORTH

### Todd stacks up the wins

RYAN TODD clocked up four wins at **Port Royal EC**, East Yorks (14 November), riding the Lawtons' Woodcroft Dancing Queen and Kate Hallitt's Don Lijbra, reports *Helen Scott*.

"Dancer", a nine-year-old by Davignon I, has been with Ryan for six months and has now completed her qualification at advanced medium. He plans to move her up a level after some time getting to know her.

"She can be quite hormonal and off-side at times so we have

been learning how best to manage her. She's been spending a lot of time in the field and the trick is to keep her relaxed while still being able to ask questions of her. She's ready to move up," said Ryan.

Don Lijbra, a seven-year-old by Spielberg, was contesting his first elementaries, winning one outright and topping the open section of the second. He was bought by the Todds as a foal from Brightwells and sold to Kate, who competed him until a couple of months ago.

"He's a talented horse, but got too big for Kate, who has just bought another called Boyka to ride herself," added Ryan. "Don was a bit tense in the second test because his stable-mate Boyka was in the warm-up. I'm thrilled Kate has clicked with her new horse – they were placed in the novice."

Event riders were out at **REC**, North Yorks (14 November), with Francesca Stourton taking the novice qualifier with her eventer Bucanto. They are contesting affiliated dressage

for the first time and completed qualification for the winters.

Francesca's eventing season was curtailed by a fall from another horse, so she is training hard this winter.

"He gets good marks for dressage when eventing, so I thought I'd see how he did at affiliated," said Francesca, whose family organises Allerton Park Horse Trials.

Sara Bowe, who missed most of the eventing season due to a broken ankle, took a lorry load of young horses, and finished first, second, third and fifth in a prelim.

## NORTH-WEST

### Change of path for Shakeshaft

ZADE SHAKESHAFT and her Spanish-bred gelding Entendido LIX won an elementary at **Tushingham Arena**, Cheshire (11 November). Zade imported the PRE horse as an unbacked three-year-old project, writes *Jo Prestwich*.

"I was into polo at the time and my plan was to bring him on and sell him and he would fund me," said Zade, who is in her final year of an animal science degree. "Needless to say the horse is still with me and I've given up polo."

The pair was fourth at this year's summer regionals in the novice restricted and have qualified for the Area Festival championships next spring.

For Sam Fish, winning the pick your own advanced at **Kingswood EC**, Staffs (14-15 November), with Cumeragh House Mac was a bright point



**NORTH-WEST:** Spanish bred Entendido LIX, bought originally as a project, tops an elementary with Zade Shakeshaft





**NORTH:** Elementary first-timer Don Lijbra gives Ryan Todd one of four victories

to a day that began with the loss of her first advanced horse, Gunstone Iwondo D (Wally), at the age of 26.

"Wally took me from up to PSG, won at the winter championships and taught me so much about dressage – everything else I've ridden has benefited," said Sam.

"This was Mac's first advanced and I'm looking forward to trying a PSG with him in the future, where he'll join Wally's daughter Gunstone Liberty Belle at the level."

Paula Unwin and Arizona IV won the elementary at **Crow Wood Equestrian**, Lancs (11 November). The 11-year-old was bought as a six-year-old.

"His previous owner sadly had to sell him and I've reaped the benefit of all her hard work," said Paula.

## SOUTH-WEST

### High hopes for Rastafari

MARK CUNLIFFE headed an advanced and an advanced medium at **Duchy College**, Cornwall (14 November). Both wins came on his 16-year-old Rastafari, by Regazzoni, who has spent much of the past three years out of competition, writes *Annabel Kerby*.

"He's got a lot stronger through his training and when my son turned 16 months old, it was time to start competing again," said Mark, who has recently passed his BHSI and is working towards his Fellowship.

"I need to compete at grand prix to specialise in a dressage Fellowship, and so while

Rastafari might not win at that level, we need to have a crack at it," he added.

Camelford-based Mark teaches full-time and has help from his wife, Becky Monk, and from Pammy Hutton when she visits Cornwall once a month.

Stephanie Sweet prepared for being a guinea pig for Judy Harvey at the British Dressage (BD) National Convention (report, p60) by winning both elementary opens with plus-73% scores at **Stretcholt Farm**, Somerset (12 November). She rode her five-year-old Don Havidoff son Dolle Jung, who came from Germany in January.

"He finds simple changes so easy," said Stephanie, who is aiming Dolle Jung at six-year-old classes next year, and is trained by Virginia Peters.

Emily Farleigh, from Kingsbridge, warmed up for the eventing season early by

winning the novice 24 restricted at **Duchy College** on her eight-year-old 18hh Casmier, by Wittinger VDL, followed by the novice 38 restricted qualifier with her new ride, Midnight Ash, by Anshan. The 10-year-old reached intermediate level eventing with Alex Bragg.

## SCOTLAND

### Rosy return for Beau Rouge

SISTERS Eilidh and Laura Grant headed four classes between them at **Gordon Dressage Group**, Aberdeen (14-15 November), reports *Melanie Scott*.

Eilidh accounted for three advanced medium classes with Beau Rouge, and Laura won the PSG with Ocho Gadrio.

Beau, a nine-year-old Santano mare, has had limited outings this year since fracturing her leg in a field accident in January and then cutting her pastern last month.

"It was in an awkward place and took time to heal," explained Eilidh. "She lost fitness and was tired after her first test. She moves beautifully but is very weak after having so much time off."

Laura has produced her part-bred Andalusian, Ocho Gadrio, through the grades.

"He's working at grand prix at home – he finds piaffe and passage easy," said Laura, a third-year student at Robert

Gordon University.

Lynn Paisley was a double prelim winner at **Muirmill EC**, Ayrshire (15 November), with Lionheart Phantom, achieving 74.38% and 71.88% on their first BD outing.

"I originally bought him a year ago for my husband to ride but I've taken a liking to him," said Lynn, who has lightly shown the seven-year-old traditional coloured this season under saddle.

"He was supreme at Inchcoonans and placed in two Horse of the Year Show qualifiers. I will only show him lightly with the focus on his dressage – I hope to take him up the grades."

At **Inchcoonans EC**, Perthshire (14 November), Ferne Fairfull accounted for two prelims – scoring the day's best mark of 73.26% with six-year-old mare Amourevia Z, by Amoureux.

## CENTRAL

### Birch enjoys soaring scores

PENNY BIRCH'S five-year-old mare Platinum Essence won both novices at **Addington Manor EC**, Bucks (12 November), one with 77.86%, writes *Stephanie Bateman*.

Penny bought the Westfalian by Florestan as a three-year-old from the Addington sales.

"She is proving to be a super horse and every time we go out she is getting better and better," said Penny, who trains with Charlotte Dujardin and Ian Woodhead.

"She finds the collection very easy and has an amazingly active hindleg."

The pair have qualified for the regionals and will contest young horse classes before attempting elementary.

Natasha Leak topped an elementary and a medium class at **Vale View EC**, Leics (15 November). She was riding Elizabeth Lawton-Smith's Belgian warmblood Horatio Appg-stables.

Natasha rode the gelding by the Weltmeyer son Weltart as a four-year-old before he went to another rider, but he returned to her aged eight.

"Horatio came back to me



**SOUTH-WEST:** Double elementary winners Stephanie Sweet and five-year-old Dolle Jung, by Don Havidoff, prepare to star at the BD National Convention

# The inside scoop with Gareth Hughes

We catch up with the Animalife ambassador, coach and multi-medalled Great British dressage rider to find out more about his daily routine and hopes for the future

## What was the your proudest moment of your dressage career?

IT would have to be getting picked for the team to compete at the 2014 World Equestrian Games. Obviously winning a team silver medal riding DV Stenkjers Nadonna was incredible, but to be recognised as someone who could be on the same team as the likes of Charlotte Dujardin, Carl Hester and Michael Eilberg was a huge honour.

## What's your secret weapon while competing?

I'M not sure that I have a secret weapon, but I think the most important factor is to be in the right place mentally. You have done all the training at home so you need to have faith in your ability once you are competing. Michael Phelps, the prolific swimmer, said that training was like depositing money in the bank and competing was taking a withdrawal. Therefore the harder you train the bigger the withdrawal you can make, which is something I live by.

## Which is your go-to Animalife product?

IT would have to be Vetrofen. It definitely has a positive effect on the horses in that they feel better within themselves on a daily basis.

## What are your horses' characters like?

HORSES are like people. We have some with very strong, outgoing personalities and some that are quite introverted. We have horses ranging from yearlings through to a couple of retired ex-grand prix horses and they all get treated as individuals.

## What aspect of your daily routine do you find most challenging or tiring?

MY wife, Rebecca and I are constantly



Gareth's Rio Olympics hope Classic Briolinka has impressed at grand prix this year despite her young age

juggling a lot of commitments, with training, competing, coaching and sales. It all requires a lot of effort to keep the show on the road.

## What are your aims for 2016?

WE have a nine-year-old mare called Classic Briolinka that we own with Julia Hornig. We have owned her since she was three. She is hugely talented and this year has taken the step to grand prix and is scoring internationally over 70% already after only two starts. Next year we will campaign her with the Rio Olympics being our aim!

## Do you go hacking?

YES, the horses get hacked out at least

once a week. We are lucky that our property backs onto a bridle path.

## What is your favourite thing to do in the evening and how do you relax?

NOTHING. We are always so busy. To sit and have a quiet relaxing evening would be perfect.

## What horsey equipment could you not live without?

MY Fairfax saddles and bridles. I helped design my own saddle with Fairfax last year and I love it. **H&H**

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SCOTLAND: Nine-year-old Beau Rouge, by Santano, returns from fracturing her leg in January to clock up an advanced medium hat-trick for Ellidh Grant

three months ago and we have been concentrating on getting him out to competitions and qualifying for the regionals," Natasha said.

"He started his medium classes with me so he is quite new to them, but he is such a straightforward horse and it's a pleasure to ride him.

"He's sadly for sale, so I'll start the advanced medium classes and keep going until he is sold."

Daisy Hawkins enjoyed a successful outing to **Solihull RC**, West Mids (12 November), winning both mediums on nine-year-old Wylderswoode Willowtree (by Wylderswoode Stormydd) and coming second in both elementaries with eight-year-old Hanoverian Foxboro Rose Royale, by Parsons Rasputin.

## RESULTS

### COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA

**Cambs, 14 November**  
**Prelim 15Q (D Morgan).**–1, Tout Royale (S Forster) 62.17; **rest.**–1, Tyncoed Mountain Music (E Burnage) 69.13; 2, Darcy Dreamboy (C Payne) 67.82; 3, Kilnamanagh Lady (J Hansen) 66.95.  
**prelim 19Q.**–1, Tout Royale 59.31; **rest.**–1, Patch Ali (P Rhodes) 68.18; 2, Efigurante (L Shotton) 67.95; 3, Redpools Mountbatten (W Buxton) 66.81.  
**nov 22.**–1, Duplication (D Crowe) 68.96; **rest.**–1, Riffel Alp (N Pettit) 66.03; 2, Eriena (C Brown) 63.1; 3, Clew Bay Lad (T Hammond) 62.58.  
**nov 39Q.**–1, Duplication 67.58; **rest.**–1, Hamlets Harmony (J Parkes) 65; 2, Clew Bay Lad 62.93; 3, William V (A Ford) 61.72.  
**elem 45 (A Nicell).**–1, Glorieux Le Noir (S Coulten) 62.75; **rest.**–1, Gardas Delight (K Nash) 64.65; 2, Riffel Alp 63.44; 3, CaDeau (D Hughes) 62.58.  
**elem 59Q.**–1, Glorieux Le Noir 69.3; **rest.**–1, Sven II (S Gerard) 62.96; 2, To Be Frank (N Powell) 62.65; 3, CaDeau 61.09.  
**med 61 rest.**–1, Daisy May II (A Dugdale) 63.62; 2, Shallys Game (J Cross) 56.89.  
**med 73Q.**–1, Daisy May II 63.23; 2, CaDeau 61.76.  
**adv med 94.**–1, Chopin VS (A Van Silfhout) 67.2; **rest.**–1, Spring Ginger (A Bishop) 68.08.  
**adv med 92Q.**–1, Chopin VS 66.08; 2, Fargo (E Pounce) 63.64; **rest.**–1, Spring Ginger 57.7.  
**PYO adv.**–1, Cuffstown Rumble (S Turner) 59.37.

### DUCHY COLLEGE

**Cornwall, 14 November**  
**Prelim 13Q.**–1, Mac V (K Cowling) 69.58; 2, Didansa (T Masselink) 69.37; 3, Waneica (C Knight) 57.92; **rest.**–1, Dazzling No Doubts (S Cooper) 68.54; 2, Lovenny Crackle (I Thomas) 63.96; 3, Dundee (W Courtald) 60.83.  
**prelim 19Q.**–1, Didansa 68.86; 2, Mac V 67.5; **rest.**–1, Tinkerbelle (M Northmore) 72.27; 2, Dazzling No

## EAST

### Williams works the Magic

THE final qualifiers for the inaugural small tour championships took place on 12-13 November at **Sheepgate**, Lincs, writes *Selene Scarsi*.

Harriette Williams and the striking palomino Hattrick Magic, a nine-year-old Danish warmblood by the Equus Kinsky stallion Heimdals Hamlet – one of the rarest breeds in the world – took both PSGs.

"Magic was on the ball in the PSG, with trot extensions and lateral work being particular highlights. He was still full of go for the freestyle on the second day – we nailed the tempis on a half circle, and one of the judges awarded us over 76%

Doubts 69.09; 3, Santa Lucia (A Goodman) 67.5.  
**nov 24.**–1, Estier Amandine (M Barron) 65.38; 2, Typical Star (H Moore) 64.62; 3, Just William XVI (L Latham) 64.42; **rest.**–1, Casmier (E Farleigh) 70.58; 2, Midnight Ash (E Farleigh) 69.42; 3, Chocolate Smooch (L Jewell) 64.81.  
**nov 38Q.**–1, Estier Amandine 74.52; 2, Wonderful II (D Hanner) 69.03; 3, Just William XVI 68.09.  
**rest.**–1, Midnight Ash 69.68; 2, Casmier 68.39; 3, Woodgrove Jazz (R Wood) 62.42.  
**elem 44.**–1, Centyfield Chattanooga (S Mawley) 65.6; **rest.**–1, SOS Al Sennen (A Searle) 69.6; 2, Dovevale Tender Dove (N Collings-Costello) 64.8; 3, Zack (Z Barwell) 58.  
**elem 53Q.**–1, Centyfield Chattanooga 66.91; **rest.**–1, Dovevale Tender Dove 67.5; 2, Ashley's Gold Lucky Girl (H Kerslake) 66.62; 3, Guns N Roses (M Clifford) 65.88.  
**med 61.**–1, Doctor Little (H Kerslake) 74.83; 2, Ashley's Gold Lucky Girl 68.97; 3, Arendo (R Monk) 66.9.  
**med 73Q.**–1, Doctor Little 68.51; 2, Arendo 65.81; 3, For Debate (R Ezra) 61.76.  
**adv med 85.**–1, Rastafari (M Cunliffe) 68.24; 2, Bono II (A Edmonds) 66.62; 3, Boston HS (H Askey) 64.26.  
**adv med 92Q.**–1, Boston HS 68.78; 2, Bono II 65.27.  
**adv 102.**–1, Rastafari 64.56.  
**PSG.**–1, Donna Bella (C Deithrick) 63.68.

### GORDON DRESSAGE GROUP

**Aberdeen 14-15 November**  
**Prelim 4Q rest (M Robley).**–1, Balhagarty Kestral (V Law) 69.58; 2, May May (K Forsyth) 69.17; 3, Thunder III (K Gordon) 67.29.  
**prelim 19Q (A Bostock).**–1, Balhagarty Millions Of Diamonds (A West) 66.14; **rest.**–1, Thunder III 70.23; 2eq, Alphonie (M Cassie) & May May 66.59.  
**novice 28Q (M Robley).**–1, Balhagarty Millions Of Diamonds 70.83; **rest.**–1, Dantades Inferno (K Meiras) 67.29.  
**nov 39Q (A Bostock).**–1, Apollo HIS (A West) 62.93; **rest.**–1, Stormhill Riverdance (R Milne) 61.72.  
**elem 42 (M Robley).**–1, Ziggy Stardust (L Corsie) 66.56; **rest.**–1, Joldert Fan Offenwier (K Murray) 65.94; 2, Raphael Rosse (D

artistically," said Harriette.

Magic was previously owned by the late Jane Gregory, who aimed to take him to grand prix.

"Although I didn't know Jane, I hope she would be proud and that I can achieve with him what she dreamt of progressing him to," concluded the rider.

Both inter I classes went to Debbie Tate and Fernhill Mo B, a 14-year-old by Ramiro B.

"It was the first time I'd ever done an inter I freestyle, so I was delighted that it went so well despite the very strong winds, which seemed to get Mo B a little excited," said Debbie, who trains with Dan Sherriff and Jill Day.

Between them, show organiser Sarah Payne and her daughter Lily won all five classes they entered, all on plus-70% scores. Sarah rode her father Bruce Grant's Sheepgate Ushipower at advanced medium and PSG; Lily rode Ann Savage's Beckhouse Cancara at novice, scoring plus-76% in their first freestyle.

"It was a special couple of days after a challenging year – first we lost Mum, then we moved in with Dad, and now live at Sheepgate again. It is lovely as this is where I grew up, but we are now taking things as they come and living for today," said Sarah. **H&H**

## AGE IS NO BARRIER

### A combined age of 77

AT **Houghton Hall**, Cambs (11 November), veteran combination Geraldine Phillips, 61, and Mistral Moonstar, 16, won both prelims, posting the highest score of the day in the process.

"We were both relatively new to dressage when I got 'Alf' just over two years ago, having been looking for an all-rounder to do a bit of everything with. We learnt together, with a lot of help and support from trainer Rachel Owens," commented Geraldine.

"Alf is definitely not a typical dressage horse but the judges seem to like him. He's a pleasure to compete; he's a quick learner and really tries. He's so well behaved at shows but can be a cheeky chap at home," added Geraldine of the 15.3hh Irish sport horse who has Master Imp and Clover Hill bloodlines.

"One of the things we have been working on with help from Rachel is to get Alf forward while retaining accuracy. He does a lovely test when he has impulsion, but sometimes I don't manage to harness that and we get breaks to canter or jogging. On Wednesday, we seemed to achieve just the right balance."

### HOUGHTON HALL

**Cambs, 11 November**  
**Prelim 17Q rest (M Thornley).**–1, Mistral Moonstar (G Phillips) 69.61; 2, TT Amika (J Clarke) 66.92; 3, Shalamar Thunderstorm (J Brooking) 65.38.  
**prelim 19Q rest (A Bostock).**–1, Mistral Moonstar 67.72; 2, Fonteyn (S Dalton) 65.45; 3, TT Amika 65.22.  
**nov 23 (M Thornley).**–1, Fearless II (N Tsuchiya) 68.51; 2, Fiddancyle Renegade (J Gattuso) 58.88; **rest.**–1, Campion Capella (E Uden) 68.14; 2, Sambuca B (N Barlow) 67.03; 3, Eling Lad (J Longland) 65.55.  
**nov 39Q (A Bostock).**–1, First Diamond (A Richter) 66.03; 2, El Spice (P Lavers) 60.68; **rest.**–1, Campion Capella 67.06; 2, Sambuca B 65.51; 3, Eling Lad 65.  
**elem 43 (M Thornley).**–1, Glorieux Le Noir (S Coulten) 67.58; 2, Toy Boy Terry (L McDonald) 67.24; 3, Corona S (C Knowles) 67.24.  
**rest.**–1eq, El Spice & LVA Damascus (A Brown) 65.17; 3, Calif (E Fosker) 64.82.  
**elem 59Q (A Bostock).**–1, Glorieux Le Noir 65.46; 2eq, Corona S & Show Dance (T Hewlett) 63.9; **rest.**–1, Solo Choice (N Smith) 63.28; 2, Cat 62.03; 3, Rudiger (N Bentley) 60.93.  
**med 69 (K Ratcliffe).**–1, Oldencraig Winterwald (K Fox) 65.75; **rest.**–1, DHI Cindano (T Hewlett) 67.12; 2, Rain Dance (A Uden) 64.54.  
**med 75Q.**–1, Oldencraig Winterwald 66.08; **rest.**–1, DHI Cindano 66.75; 2, Rain Dance 62.83; 3, Zjagor G (S Cason) 60.81.  
**adv med 92Q rest.**–1, Divine Intervention (T Baker) 61.62; 2, Coady Bay Artique (T England) 61.35; 3, Welt Star (E Openshaw) 61.21.  
**PSG.**–1, St Elmo's Fire SP (A Knight) 62.36; 2, Lario (S Murphy) 59.21.  
**PYO adv.**–1, Feiner Pino (L Clark) inter II 60; 2, Resolut (G McLean) GP 58.7.

### HUNTERS EC

**Glos, 11 November**  
**Prelim 13Q (S Cumine).**–1, Camiro V (J Pidcock) 69.79; **rest.**–1, Murray Mint (S Morgan-Rodda) 69.16; 2, Solis Obitus (E Owen) 68.33; 3,



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Springfield Bollinger (L Grantham) 66.04. **prelim 140 (C Hogg)**.–1, Camiro V 69.58. **rest.**–1, Solis Obitus 74.58; 2, Rubix II (S Whitfield) 68.95; 3, Murray Mint 68.95. **nov 27 (S Cumine)**.–1, Scirocco (L Cartwright) 74.1; 2eq, Ballintogher Cruising (C Price) & Fairplay (E Winter) 68.39. **rest.**–1, Disaronno SV (S Van Den Berg) 68.03; 2, Alet About Lexy (R West) 67.14; 3, Trevoulter Voltex (L Browne) 65.53. **nov 38Q (C Hogg)**.–1, Ballintogher Cruising 69.67; 2, Garrison Ted (C Price) 69.51; 3, Fairplay 66.77. **rest.**–1, Devils Gold (K Gibson) 77.77; 2, Evening Primrose (F Godfrey) 68.38; 3, Murray Mint 68.06. **elem 44 rest (S Cumine)**.–1, Seco (M Gerrard) 64.6; 2, Emirlinus (A Wiggall) 64; 3, Newtown Butler (M Letts) 63.6. **elem 57Q (C Hogg)**.–1, Garrison Ted 67.67. **rest.**–1, HHC Domino (A Poole) 67.5; 2, Devils Gold 66.96; 3, Seco 66.25. **med 61 (A Keen)**.–1, Dafira (A Woodhead) 72.41; 2, Argentin (B Goodwin) 70.86; 3, S Jari (L Smith) 70.17. **rest.**–1, HHC Domino 61.89. **med 75Q (T Thorne)**.–1, Dafira 71.35; 2, Argentin 67.38; 3, Private Rudolph (H Woodhead) 67.02. **rest.**–1, Ufforio (E Terray) 63.1; 2, Wachiwi (A Jenkins) 62.16. **adv med 94 (A Keen)**.–1, Leandro (M Frost) 72.05; 2, Scirocco (A Woodhead) 70.44; 3, Roman Noir Himself (P Friday) 69.7. **rest.**–1, Ufforio 65.29. **adv med 92Q (T Thorne)**.–1, Denford Surprise (P Peters) 74.18; 2, AMD Don Havidoff (M Frost) 72.83; 3, Leandro 70.81. **rest.**–1, Chateau (A Ferryhough) 65.27; 2, Waranos (R Bell) 65; 3, Ulanski (T Millward) 61.08. **PYO (A Keen)**.–1, Ajorno (K Cox) PSG 65.52; 2, AMD Don Havidoff PSG 63.55.

## KINGSWOOD EC

Staffs, 14-15 November

**GP (C Thornton)**.–1, Aronique (S Gordon) 63.4. **PSG**.–1, Bluewood Phoenix (K Struthers) 61.71. **PYO adv**.–1, Cumeragh House Mac (S Fish) 66.94; 2, Floran (B White) 64.06. **adv med 98Q**.–1, TJ Benjamin (M Eilberg) 71.32. **rest.**–1, ROH Klassica (Z Taylor) 69.82; 2, High Time (L ManKilipp) 64.21. **adv med 92**.–1, TJ Benjamin 71.62; 2, Woodcroft Kristabelle (M Daswson) 64.19. **rest.**–1, Roh Klassica 67.84; 2, High Time 61.76. **med 69**.–1, Patchwork Princess (J Money) 65.15. **rest.**–1, Machno Countryman (A Kolleth) 64.55; 2, Magic Flame (J Millman) 60.15. **med 75Q**.–1, Woodcroft Kristabelle 62.7. **rest.**–1, Machno Countryman 64.05. **elem 59Q (C Ballantyne)**.–1, Lightning Lumiere (R Hall) 58.75. **rest.**–1, Wreklin Jack (S Kiernan) 64.84; 2, Urbanes (J Beasley) 64.22; 3, Fulstar (S Benyon) 60.47. **elem 45**.–1, Urbanes 64.48; 2, Step Pearl (W Bridges) 63.62; 3, Scoops (S Stephens) 55. **nov 39Q rest.**–1,

The Doc (S Cadwallader) 66.72; 2, Orphan Annie (K Vere-Hodge) 65.52. **nov 23**.–1, Wa'Spoir (S Jones) 69.44; 2, Edleman A (S Morrison) 66.67; 3, Joe Juneau (S Morrison) 62.41. **rest.**–1, The Doc 66.11; 2eq, Break Field (P Bowles) & Kelly's Hill (S Cadwallader) 65.75. **prelim 19Q (R Howard)**.–1, Joe Juneau 68.86; 2, Wa'Spoir 65.91. **rest.**–1, Glanvymwy Foxy Lady (K Morris) 77.05; 2, Little Jess (J Shaw) 74.32; 3, Kellys Hill 72.73. **prelim 17Q rest.**–1, Little Jess 73.08; 2, Iqum De Hautmont (D Wilcox) 7.96; 3, Wester Aikema's Vantijn (F Pitchford Edwards) 69.62.

## SHEEPGATE

Lincs, 12-13 November

**12 Nov: small tour champs qualifier PSG (J Peberdy, C Ballantyne)**.–1, Hattrick Magic (H Williams) 67.3; 2, Debutante (V Saul) 63.42; 3, Diamond Lil (C Randall) 59.74. **small tour champs inter 1**.–1, Fernhill Mo B (D Tate) 63.82; 2, Springfield (C Dugdale) 61.51. **prelim 15Q rest (C Ballantyne)**.–1, Lissy Casey Gold (H Tongue) 70.65; 2, Romulus III (S Thompson) 66.09; 3, Remus III (J Adams) 66.09. **prelim 17Q (S Payne)**.–1, Lissy Casey Gold 70.96; 2, Romulus III 70.38; 3, Remus III 68.46. **nov 23 (S Smith)**.–1, Belissimo (N Leak) 70.56. **rest.**–1, Beckhouse Cancara (L Payne) 70.37; 2, Chelano (R Grundy) 65.93. **nov 38Q (S Cooper)**.–1, Francisco (C Millard) 69.68; 2, Belissimo 67.74. **rest.**–1, Beckhouse Cancara 71.45; 2, Chelano 68.23; 3, Sixth Proposal (S Smith) 65.97. **elem 43 (A Smith)**.–1, Jazzed Up (L Dyson) 71.55; 2, Horatio APG-stables (N Leak) 71.03; 2, Trew Mount Colour (A Wouds) 66.03. **rest.**–1, Merchant Of Venice (G Sharpe) 63.28. **elem 53Q (A Elliott)**.–1, Pezi Classic (J Hugo-Ross) 72.35; 2, Jazzed Up 71.47; 3, Dino 391 (C Millard) 68.53. **rest.**–1, Merchant Of Venice 64.85. **med 69**.–1, RS Raphael (W Worthington) 73.48; 2, Cruz III (J Turney) 71.36; 3, Dancer (D Thickitt) 70.61. **rest.**–1, Cyden Oostings Amigo (O Whitelaw) 64.85; 2, Thymely Opposition (T Winger) 60.45. **med 73Q (A Smith)**.–1, Cruz III 73.38; 2, Dante XII (J Hancock) 68.09; 3, Dancer 67.65. **rest.**–1, Urban Knight (J Littlejohn) 66.32; 2, GDH Skyfall (K Owens) 61.03; 3, Cyden Oostings Amigo 60.59. **adv med 92 rest (J Peberdy)**.–1, Zidaane (H Colwell) 68.38; 2, Favory Gazdag (J Folman) 63.97; 3, Unlimited III (B Lynn) 58.38. **adv med 98Q (S Cooper)**.–1, Sheepgate Ushpower (S Payne) 70.13. **rest.**–1, Zidaane 68.03; 2, Spring Ginger (A Bishop) 59.75. **PYO adv (J Peberdy)**.–1, Donner Debussy (J Hugo-Ross) GP 59.46. **nov FSM Q (A Elliott)**.–1, Headmore Bassenthwaite (J Turney) 74.72; 2, Francisco 72.22; 3, Figaro

III (S Gibbs) 66.39. **rest.**–1, Sixth Proposal 61.67; 2, Jemeralda (E Faulding) 61.11. **elem FSM Q (C Ballantyne)**.–1, Jazzed Up 75; 2, Pezi Classic 73.65; 3, Dino 391 71.54. **rest.**–1, Zorra Verte (C Pearson) 71.35; 2, Thymely Opposition 67.31; 3, Monsolei (S Gonchakov) 54.81. **med FSM Q (J Peberdy)**.–1, Undaunted (C Randall) 70.17; 2, San Diego (H Colwell) 69.83; 3, Monrachet IV (K Johnson) 66.67. **rest.**–1, Urban Knight (J Littlejohn) 68.83; 2, Maddox (B Ritchie) 62.83. **adv med FSM Q (A Elliott)**.–1, Duque L (H Payne) 70.17; 2, Undaunted 66. **rest.**–1, Spring Ginger 57.5. **PSG FSM Q (S Cooper)**.–1, Sheepgate Ushpower 72.75; 2, Alert V (H Payne) 71.13; 3, Winston XIV (P Hahn) 65.3. **13 Nov: small tour champs qualifier PSG FSM (P Bushell, J Bradwell)**.–1, Hattrick Magic 69.25; 2, Diamond Lil 61; 3, Debutante 57.63. **small tour champs qualifier inter I FSM**.–1, Fernhill Mo B 64.63; 2, Springfield 59. **prelim 17Q (A Elliott)**.–1, Geoff (D Hart) 64.62. **rest.**–1, Romulus III 64.81; 2, Remus III 64.42. **prelim 19Q (K Darlow)**.–1, Geoff 65.68. **rest.**–1, Romulus III 66.63; 2, Remus III 65.97; 3, Larry (L Pepperdine) 64.09. **nov 22**.–1, Belissimo 73.97; 2, Headmore Bassenthwaite 70.69; 3, Taowyn (K Lewis) 69.66. **rest.**–1, Chelano 64.66; 2, Larry 62.41; 3, Charlie Brown I (L Allard) 60.69. **nov 38Q (C Elvin)**.–1, Francisco 69.35; 2, Belissimo 65.39. **rest.**–1, Chelano 67.26; 2, Charlie Brown I 61.45. **elem 45 (K Darlow)**.–1, Jazzed Up 70.69; 2, Horatio APG-stables 70.34; 3, Noble Savage (N Jennings) 67.59. **rest.**–1, Ambers Archie (J Vickers) 60.69. **elem 57Q (A Smith)**.–1, Jazzed Up 66.25; 2, Pezi Classic 65; 3, Dino 391 64.64. **rest.**–1, Rathen (K Hibbins) 59.64. **med 61 (C Elvin)**.–1, Cruz III 78.1; 2, Horatio APG-stables 68.62; 3, Pierre (N Leak) 67.41. **rest.**–1, Cyden Oostings Amigo 67.41; 2, Fairy Tales (E Scully) 66.03; 3, Thymely Opposition (T Winger) 64.14. **med 75Q (S Payne)**.–1, Cruz III 78.51; 2, San Diego 69.05; 3, Othello Du Gravant (L Croft) 63.38. **rest.**–1, Fairy Tales 65.54; 2, Cyden Oostings Amigo 64.32; 3, Thymely Opposition 63.78. **adv med 85 (A Smith)**.–1, Wiekpe II (V Jones) 69.56; 2, HRH Romancier (S Dave) 61.18. **rest.**–1, Unlimited III (B Lynn) 61.47. **adv med 92Q (C Elvin)**.–1, HRH Romancier 64.19; 2, Wiekpe II 62.7. **rest.**–1, Zidaane 66.35. **PYO (A Smith)**.–1, Zidaane adv 105 64.56; 2, Donner Debussy GP 64.1. **nov FSM Q**.–1, Francisco 78.89; 2, Headmore Bassenthwaite 69.17; 3, Figaro III (S Gibbs) 65. **rest.**–1, Beckhouse Cancara (L Payne) 76.39. **elem FSM Q (J Bradwell)**.–1, Dino 391 80.96; 2, Unlimited III 70.58. **rest.**–1, Monsolei (S Gonchakov) 67.69; 3, Rathen (K Hibbins) 60.77.

**med FSM Q (J Bradwell)**.–1, Undaunted 78.67; 2, Foxcourt Accola (J Turney) 65.17; 3, Othello Du Gravant 60.33. **adv med FSM Q (P Bushell)**.–1, Duque L 70.33; 2, Undaunted 66.17. **PSG FSM Q**.–1, Royal Standard (A Staines) 70.63; 2, Hattrick Magic 68.38; 3, Tijis H (V Jones) 68.25.

## SOLIHULL RC

West Mids, 12 November

**Elem 40 (S Duffy)**.–1, Bear (J Atkin) 73.38; 2, Foxboro Rose Royale (D Hawkins) 64.51; 3, San Daji (E Blount) 63.71. **rest.**–1, Come What May (J Such) 60.32; 2, Hauptstutbuch Wanda 2 (N Kemp) 59.35. **elem 57Q**.–1, Bear 77.5; 2, Foxboro Rose Royale 69.46; 3, San Daji 65.35. **rest.**–1, Come What May 62.86; 2, Hauptstutbuch Wanda 2 60.71. **med 69 rest.**–1, Wylderswoode Willowtree (D Hawkins) 64.4. **med 75Q**.–1, Satin Rouge (Z Sleight) 68.11; 2, Safira (L Seal) 67.43; 3, Charisma Chiquille (N Allen) 60. **rest.**–1, Wylderswoode Willowtree 63. **adv med 98Q (C Inchcape)**.–1, Charisma Chiquille 70.51. **rest.**–1, Billy II (M Hough) 63.55. **PSG**.–1, Lord Of The Rings (P Cush) 67.36; 2, Florian B (J Bentley).

## STEP ASIDE

West Sussex, 12 November

**Prelim 15Q rest (P Velten)**.–1, Duke Of Love (S Lane) 70.22; 2, China King (C Maple) 61.74. **prelim 17Q**.–1, Duke Of Love 70.19; 2, China King 60.16. **nov 23 (P Green)**.–1, Ratino (N Aston) 72.59; 2, Concilio (K Mackin) 70.93; 3, Frankie Foxtro (S Maple) 67.04. **rest.**–1, Without A Doubt (V Deacon) 64.81; 2, Beau Lucian (H Foss) 59.24. **nov 38Q**.–1, Concilio 75.12, Ratino 74.19. **rest.**–1, Harristown Bear (C Allen) 65.32. **elem 45 rest (M Drewe)**.–1, Bristol Blue (K Botting) 69.99; 2, Wathamin (M Butt) 67.24; 3, All Right (S Simmons) 61.9. **elem 53Q**.–1, Tjade Fan Lutke Peinjum 67.21; 2, Castletown Fearless (S-J Cox) 66.32. **rest.**–1, Wathamin 70.74; 2, Bristol Blue 67.21; 3, All Right 64.85. **med 69 (S Merrison)**.–1, Keystone Daganay (S Lavandera) 70. **med 75Q**.–1, Keystone Daganay 72.57. **PYO**.–1, Zelador (C Butler) adv 63.09; 2, Xerife (C Butler) adv 62.35. **rest.**–1, Bantry Parks Ransom (L Gordon) adv med 66.62; 2, Acor Dos Cedros (C Eaton) adv med 64.85. **adv med 98Q**.–1, Serupaards Salut (S Hansen) 66.45; 2, C Hoelgaards Chazz (S Hansen) 66.32; 3, Barcarole (D Timson) 65.92. **rest.**–1, Acor Dos Cedros (C Eaton) 64.61; 2, Bantry Parks Ransom (L Gordon) 64.21; 3, Henry XIII (S Neugebauer) 63.29.

## COMMENT

Alice Collins



## Be prepared for (and embrace) major change

DRESSAGE is in an odd place right now. At the bottom of the sprawling pyramid, grassroots competitor numbers are swelling, with British Dressage having created the likes of Team Quest and My Quest to accommodate ever-growing lower-level demand.

Take a look at the pyramid's peak, however, and you'll find things are not so rosy.

Dressage — and the other two main disciplines — is facing a fight to stay on the Olympic roster. Some fans of the sport might not think that's critically important. It is.

Participation in — and success at — Olympics Games triggers vital lottery funding, key in allowing Britain's top riders to give themselves and their horses the comprehensive, tip-top attention they need to compete against the best in the world.

Dressage's long format of two protracted grand prix days isn't attractive to new

audiences. Let's face it, unless you're au fait with the finer points (and therefore already an aficionado), watching dozens of repetitive tests is dull. Consistently weak spectator numbers at major championships bear this out.

And the wait after the final competitor's last halt to find out who has won isn't ticking any of those 2020 objectives boxes either.

Television audiences want easily digestible sports that are simple to understand; in themselves and in their judging. How can one judge give a five and another an eight but both still be right?

But dressage is about tradition; it's sacred and we shouldn't mess with it, I hear you say. Not so. To survive, we must adapt.

It's all very well appealing to those who already love the sport. Do we see the largest companies on the planet marketing to those who already like/use/follow? No. Their target is new blood; fresh eyes and new consumers. Dressage must think this way too. The sport itself must become its own PR machine.

What's the answer? Shorter tests? Removal of some elements? After all, in other sports participants get one crack at a movement, and that's it. Should the three piaffes in the grand prix become one? We could lose one of the extended trots. And how about the rein-back? Nobody likes that bit anyway.

But how much flesh can you pare back before you irreparably damage the vital organs of our beloved sport?

**Lose collectives, gain colour and fun**  
THERE'S no magic wand, but abolition of collectives — currently under FEI

consideration — would speed things up a bit.

Relaxing the dress code is a no-brainer. If riders chose to wear more wacky, colourful, patriotic clothes, they could do so. Madcap outfits don't detract from judges' marking ability in vaulting or ice-skating, so the suggestion that bright colours might distract judges is laughable. Give them some credit.

Then there's the suggestion that horses could wear ear covers with some degree of noise cancellation. I'm torn on this one. We've all seen dressage horses frightened by noise at the final halt and in prize-givings. Similarly, I've seen horses perform at their athletic peak surrounded by a din of noise in the reining competition at the World Equestrian Games in Caen last year.

That suggests that horses can, eventually, become accustomed to working amid significant noise. But do we want that to be part of the "test" of dressage? If not, ear covers and plugs must surely be the way forward.

But would stuffing horses' ears full of cotton wool signal some sort of fundamental fault in the training and harmony with the rider?

I think it's time to accept that, to bring dressage to new audiences who crave more fun and vocal involvement, putting the horse's welfare front and centre is sensible and advantageous. All elements of dressage must be put under the magnifying glass.

And, who knows, by drawing new admirers, the sport may be able to raise its profile, thereby attracting more attention, more lucrative sponsorship, better prize-money and greater opportunities for all. **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK: Pammy Hutton**



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Edited by  
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**DO YOU HAVE A SHOWJUMPING STORY?**  
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**Dodson & Horrell  
National Amateur and  
Veteran Championships,  
Aintree International EC,  
Merseyside**

18–21 November

By Margaret Shaw

# Amazing Grace finds perfect path

**M**ONICA BALLARD and My Amazing Grace proved winners from start to finish. After heading the opening warm-up class, the pair took all the shorter options on the final day to claim the national 85cm title.

Course designer Mark McGowan, who earned praise from all corners during these mammoth championships, left some very subtle options around the jump-off track and Monica took them all.

"We finished second last year so I was determined to go one better, and we had good lines to everything," said Monica, who has owned Grace for 11 years.

As Grace suffers from uveitis in her right eye, Monica found the occasional low winter sun and shadows sometimes affected her mare.

"Luckily when it really mattered, the most important turns were on the left rein and she pulled it out of the bag with a stride out to the last," added Monica.

The Kent rider gained a second championship win when Anemoon Van De Kapel shaved the wings all the way to take top spot in the Hazelden challenge.

"She's gone well all week but she definitely saved her best until last," said Monica, who narrowly missed a second victory with the Belgian-bred

**National 85cm  
winners Monica  
Ballard and My  
Amazing Grace  
better their second  
place from 2014**



mare in the following national 1m grand prix.

This time she was relegated to second place by Katie Shaw, who produced one of the most impressive rounds of these championships with the irrepressible home-bred Fools Business.

The pair had certainly fired a warning shot by winning both preliminary rounds, and Katie merely had to shift her weight for Fools Business to curl around the wings and turn very short into an imposing double.

The 14-year-old, by It's the Business out of the pony mare

La Bamba, was named so because he was born on April Fools Day. His stable name "Joe" is short for Joker.

"He is a horse in a million. He has such ambition to win and he knows when he pulls it off," said Katie of her Horse of the Year Show silver league final winner.

## IN THE GENES

### A penchant for Animo

WITH a flying round from penultimate draw in the 1.05m final, Cheryl Healey clinched her first national title riding Anna CI (Annie).

Breeding was the deciding factor when Cheryl bought her Animo 14-year-old 12 years ago.

"My first horse, Touchwood, was by Animo so I went for the same line," said Cheryl.

While taking time out to start her own family, Cheryl put Annie in-foal to Russel II and the mare's daughter, Russanna, was also competing at these championships.

While a time-saving option to jump one fence at an acute angle caught out many, Cheryl used her late draw to best advantage.

"I had time to practise while warming up and although it didn't come off too well in the collecting ring, I knew I had to ride more positively in the ring and it paid off," she concluded.



Patience pays off for Charlotte Goodwin, national 95cm winner with Regal Clover

Pictures by Majestic Photography

## FIRST WIN

Ian Wynne

THE Wrexham rider has always been a major player at the amateur championships, winning the national 1.20m title here in 2009. But at his first appearance in a veteran final, he clinched victory in the minor veterans' championship, riding Ann Wolley-Dodd's home-bred Don Douglas.

Drawn towards the end of the 16-strong final round, Ian pulled off a crucial time-saving turn to the second last to secure victory.

"We were a long way off the fence but Don Douglas maintained his pace," said Ian.

Although the Demonstrator 15-year-old was placed in the veteran championships at Stoneleigh and Scope, Ian felt his partner of 11 years had not been at his best.

"I felt he wasn't at his peak then, but he felt 100% here and it's nice he can come out and win a big class," said Ian.

The pair again showed their rivals a clean pair of heels in the final 1.15m championship.

Having won this final last year, Katie and Joe were again at the races and hung on to their lead despite a spirited challenge by last drawn Mark Thompson and Alex H.

Fifteen-year-old Charlotte Goodwin, one of the youngest riders at these championships, took the national 95cm title riding Regal Clover.

After making up lots of ground over the first part of the course, the Derbyshire rider took a pull to the last.

"There were plenty of turns and gallops, but we had to be careful at the last so I waited until I saw a good stride," said Charlotte, who obtained Clover a year ago.

Norman Proffitt has an incredible record at these championships and he fully

justified favouritism to win the national major veterans' title for the fifth time in 11 years.

Riding his 2014 winner, Nina Emery's Valentino XIV, Norman produced a typically determined round.

"This horse can turn back, run and go off any stride even though my eyes aren't good," said Norman, who pulled off an extremely sharp turn at the water tray.

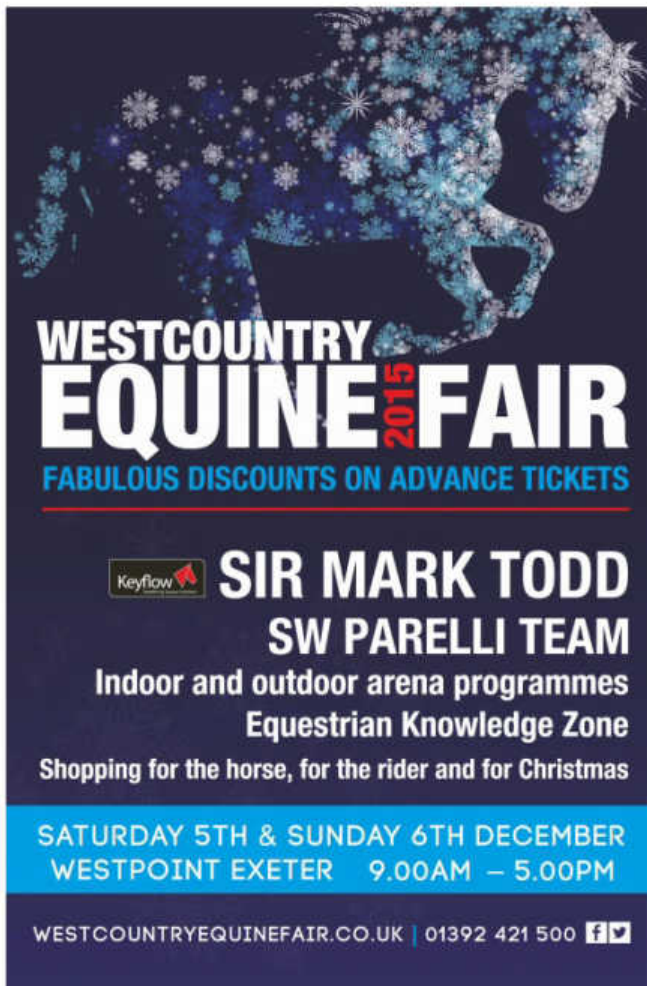
"We didn't have the best shot but we got away with it," concluded Norman, who also finished third riding Patent.

Aintree EC again proved the perfect hosts at these championships. Aside from the jumping action, there was plenty going on, including tours around the Grand National course and a dinner dance, where more than £1,000 was raised for the charity Epilepsy Action. **H&H**

## RESULTS

**18 Nov: warm-up.**—1, My Amazing Grace (M Ballard); 2, Spirits Way (R Vicary); 3, Ruby St Loise (K Benbow). **Dodson & Horrell amateur 85cm prelim.**—1, Ballinamara Omeara (G Royle); 2, Ruby St Loise; 3, Christopher Robin IV (V Jackson). **D&H 1.05m prelim.**—1, DJ Texas (J Watson); 2, Murphys Diamond III (C De Verteuil); 3, Kashmir VS (T Anderson). **D&H 1.10m.**—1, Soraja (L Humphrey); 2, The Maharanee (T Payne); 3, Anemoon Van De Kapel (M Ballard). **19 Nov: D&H 95cm.**—1, Ocean Breeze II (S Corney); 2, Ruby St Loise; 3, Wee Welsh Lady (E Shore). **D&H national minor veteran championship.**—1, Don Douglas (I Wynne); 2, Quids In II (A Mills); 3, Silva Image (T Wright). **Hazelden 1.0m challenge.**—1, Roscoes Golani (K Goodwin); 2, Who's Allez Cat (R Vicary); 3, DJ Texas. **1.15m.**—1, Fools Business (K Shaw); 2, Alex H (M Thompson); 3, Bellatrix (L Cookson). **accumulator.**—1, Seskins Popper (R Leech); 2, Bantasia (G Dickens) & Gen Van De Brouwershoeve (N Hawkins). **20 Nov: warm-up.**—1, Christopher Robin IV (A Jackson); 2, Spirits Way; 3, Reustrade (J Higson). **D&H 85cm.**—1, Ocean Breeze II (S Corney); 2, Ruby St Loise; 3, Ballinamara Omeara. **Hazelden 1m.**—1, Christopher Robin IV; 2, Roscoes Golani; 3, Anemoon Van



De Kapel. **D&H 1.05m.**—1, Zula Maeva (L Frisby); 2, Ultimatum II (E Morris); 3, Britney IV (A Ellison). **D&H 1.10m.**—1, Fools Business; 2, Anemoon Van De Kapel; 3, Sparkling Indulgence (R Vicary). **pairs.**—1, My Amazing Grace (M Ballard) & Oakleys Ace (G Dickens); 2, Ashwood Kajinka (N Roe) & Alex H (M Thompson); 3, Askan Van Overis Z (T Bevins) & Molly Chestnut (A Cottingham). **21 Nov: D&H 95cm.**—1, Regal Clover (C Goodwin); 2, Young Loula (M White); 3, Roscoes Golani. **D&H national 1.05m final.**—1, Anna CI (C Healey); 2, Captain Junior (B Parnaby); 3, Ultimatum II. **national major veterans championship.**—1 & 3, Valentino XIV & Patent (N Proffitt); 2, Alex H. **AW Jenkinson 1.15m.**—1, Fools Business; 2, Murphys Diamond III (C De Verteuil); 3, Ultimatum II. **22 Nov: D&H National amateur 85cm final.**—1, My Amazing Grace; 2, Ruby St Loise; 3, Ryan Again (S Fox). **D&H national 95cm final.**—1, Regal Clover (C Goodwin); 2, Roscoes Golani; 3, Wuranesa II (C Goldstraw). **Hazelden 1.0m Challenge final.**—1, Anemoon Van De Kapel; 2, Quinta De La Cense; 3, Whidor (A Jimmison). **D&H National 1.10m final.**—1, Fools Business; 2, Anemoon Van De Kapel; 3, Terrys Clover (T Potts). **AW Jenkinson 1.15m challenge final.**—1, Fools Business; 2, Alex H; 3, Sparkling Indulgence (R Vicary).



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# Tyson fights for top spot

**Scottish Premier Show,  
Morris EC, Ayrshire**  
19–22 November  
By Mark McGowan

**J**AMES SMITH and Tyson Uno fought off strong opposition to claim the generous £2,000 grand prix prize-fund, during a season that keeps going from strength to strength for the Scottish rider.

Neil Theobald's track produced 14 faultless rounds. With three rides to contest the spoils, James still had his work cut out after impressive challenges from Lancashire rider Nigel Coupe.

"I thought I had done enough with [first ride] Cumina, but clearly Nigel had other thoughts, so I had to take advantage of Tyson's long stride to make up the difference," said James.

The Dumfries showjumper and the nine-year-old have been invited to the forthcoming Liverpool International Horse Show (1–3 January).

"He's bang on form just now and had very good results in Spain and Portugal at the beginning of the month, so I'll be trying to keep him focused at this height between now and Liverpool."

Nigel occupied second with Jubilee III and fourth with Golvers Hill.

"If someone had offered me that before the class I'd have bitten their hand off," he said.

Jubilee III – his Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) speed final winner – is proving a useful addition to his yard.

"I got her exactly a year ago, and we haven't looked back since the Royal Highland Show in June. She's really grown in confidence and is fitting in perfectly alongside Golvers Hill," he said.

## Balou cranks up the pace

AFTER an enforced break through injury, Millie Allen was back in cracking form to head the World Class Programme under-23 qualifier with Balou Star.

Third in the Aintree



'Bang on form': James Smith takes the grand prix – and pockets £2,000 prize-money – with long-striding Tyson Uno

equivalent, a subsequent fall at home with a youngster resulted in concussion for the Teeside rider and two weeks out of the saddle.

"It was so frustrating but I just had no energy," she said – something that was in stark contrast with the turn of pace she delivered here with the impressive 10-year-old stallion.

The final fence, a 1.50m set of planks preceded by a long run, caused the majority of the problems.

"I knew I had to do all the hard work before the last to take the pressure off and, because he's been asked to go against the clock a little more in the last couple of months, it was effortless for him," said Millie.

Charlene Bastone guaranteed her Olympia appearance with Newbridges Master Brown courtesy of her second spot. It was a worthwhile long trip up to Scotland for the rider, who is based in Essex.

"He's come on so much since jumping at Hickstead in July

and it's proved that the decision to step up to this level over the last few months has been the correct one," she said.

Scottish ladies' champion Lucy Guild booked her Hickstead ticket with victory in the winter grades B&C with Hugana Van't Heike.

Winner of the second night's £1,000 1.40m class with her other prolific winner Titi D'Oase, the St Andrews-based rider was elated at the prospect of her Royal International appearance.

"The plan first and foremost is to keep her in grade B until next year for the Talent Seekers before we start preparations for the final in July," she said.

Fellow Scot Douglas Duffin took the winter grade C with Nikki Morgan's Djoel.

"He had a break after HOYS but we'll look to some international shows early next year to step him up a little more regularly at the 1.40m level," said Douglas, who is enjoying a successful season with the seven-year-old. **H&H**

## RESULTS

**Connolly's Red Mills newcomers.** – 1, Esunja (G Taylor); 2, Evangelina (J Smith); 3, Evian II (D Duffin). **H&H Foxhunter.** – 1, Early Girl (H Miller); 2, Elia (C Bolam); 3, Indy IV (A Black). **1.20m.** – 1, Galant Van Het Vijverhof (C Ash); 2, Toulons Diamond (A Black); 3, Curra Glas (D Irvine). **1.30m.** – 1, Hamilton H (M Allen); 2, Van De Bay Girl (J Smith); 3, Jumping Mac Flash (K Aird). **1.40m.** – 1, Chiquito Z (D Duffin); 2, Steady The Helm (T Page); 3, Canora (J Andrews). **H&H Foxhunter.** – 1, Elrosa (P Allen); 2, Townhead Quindulina (E Stoker); 3, TGF Policeman (S Crosby). **1.20m.** – 1, Hojmarks Rosetta (D Irvine); 2, Zagy (D Morton); 3, Curra Glas. **1.30m.** – 1, Steady The Helm; 2, Lord Castell (C Pritchard); 3, Naughty By Nature (M Davidson). **winter grade C.** – 1, Djoel (D Duffin); 2, Cassandra (M Whitaker); 3, Elia (C Bolam). **1.40m.** – 1, Titi D'Oase (L Guild); 2, Quattro 27 (J Smith); 3, Jubilee III (N Coupe). **H&H Foxhunter.** – 1, Aramis 458 (R Maguire); 2, Billy Tortilla (M Sampson); 3, Carthagon GZ (P Allen). **1.20m.** – 1, Zikro (M Allen); 2, Eagles Costalot (M Sampson); 3, Hojmarks Rosetta. **Blue Chip small op.** – 1, Chinook BH (O Poole); 2, Zagy (D Morton); 3, Galant Van Het Vijverhof. **winter grades B&C.** – 1, Hugana Van't Heike (L Guild); 2, Keeford Carousel (D Irvine); 3, Billy Tortilla. **World Class Programme u23.** – 1, Balou Star (M Allen); 2, Newbridges Master Brown (S Webb); 3, Samayava AR Park (A Inglis). **accumulator.** – 1, Eagles Costalot; 2, Titi D'Oase; 3, Hi Midnight Millie (T Page). **H&H Foxhunter.** – 1, Early Girl; 2, Billy Tortilla; 3, Townhead Quindulina. **1.20m.** – 1, Challenger (G Babes); 2, Zonie II (R Duff); 3, Bellisimo II (C Bolam). **Blue Chip dynamic B&C.** – 1, Ruby VIII (L Whitaker); 2, Hugana Van't Heike (L Guild); 3, Wyona (L Hutt). **1.30m.** – 1, Dolanda (M Sampson); 2, Chiquito Z; 3, Hamilton H. **winter op.** – 1, Tyson Uno (J Smith); 2, Jubilee III; 3, Cumina (J Smith).

## COMMENT

**Graham Fletcher**



### New system is 'an absolute shocker'

**W**ILLIAM FUNNELL thinks that scrapping our national rankings system is having a detrimental effect on British riders (comment, 12 November). He's absolutely right.

When I heard of the plans to replace it with gold, silver and bronze leagues, I rang British Showjumping's (BS) chief executive Iain Graham to point out that it was the worst mistake BS had made for decades. I said so in my *H&H* comment too.

As things stand, qualifying for our top British shows such as Royal Windsor, Bolesworth and Hickstead can only be achieved by jumping internationally.

When I came into the sport, I didn't have the money to take a string of horses overseas to compete. The same is true for all those still at the top today, the likes of the Whitakers and Nick Skelton. They too worked their way up through our national circuit to earn the privilege of jumping at foreign shows.

Under the new system, progression in our sport is most accessible to the wealthy — because it restricts those who aren't as financially well resourced. Yes, talent does come to the top — but it needs the infrastructure to allow it to do so.

The old combined national/FEI rankings list fascinated owners, sponsors and fans, as well as riders as they jostled for position each month. To be part of a league that has Scott Brash at number one gives a real buzz to up-and-coming riders.

When BS decided to adopt the FEI list and dump the national element, it cited the high cost of administration. Well, I'm sure there are many people who'd be very pleased to do a couple of hours a day at home on the computer. So why not sub-let the paperwork?

#### Topsy-turvy standards

MANY of our so-called top national classes are now a joke, a contest of how fast riders can go over small jumps. It's only the international trials and Stairway series that are upholding standards — and full marks to BS' Maria Clayton for that.

But how can we continue to get sponsors for such classes when they count for nothing as far as rankings, and therefore qualification for major shows, is concerned?

Take Royal Windsor: getting into the first big show of the British outdoor calendar used to depend on standings in the combined rankings list. But now, a rider can win the Cock O' The North, county show grands prix

and international trials, perhaps collecting £25,000 in the process. Yet someone who's won £100 for a tail-end placing in a rankings class abroad is automatically above them when it comes to qualifying for Royal Windsor. How can that be right?

The knock-on effect is that we're losing the more difficult courses to jump in this country. And that's something we badly need if we are to keep producing horses to win Nations Cups and championship medals.

The British team, led by Di Lampard, did remarkably well to qualify for the Olympics. But we can't look at the future through rose-tinted spectacles.

Two of that team, Joe Clee and Jessica Mendoza, are based in Belgium. And, as great a partnership as Jessica has with her top horse Spirit T, the mare is 15 next year.

At the recent Global Champions Tour final in Doha, the top four British riders were competing. But only Scott went through to the final 18.

I'm sure that at its next meeting, the BS board will dismiss mine and Will Funnell's view as old-fashioned, claiming they're far better placed to know what the membership wants.

But I'd urge those board members who have never ridden or produced an international horse — and there are quite a few of them — to think again; because in my opinion they have collectively played an absolute shocker. **H&H**

● **NEXT WEEK:** William Funnell



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# Vive la France

## Stuttgart German Masters Indoor Derby

18 November

By Pippa Roome

**S**IDNEY DUFRESNE scored a "special and emotional" win in the arena cross-country class at Stuttgart.

It would always have been a memorable night for the 29-year-old Frenchman – the sole representative of his nation here. With his agreement the show organised a minute's silence after he entered the arena, with the words "Je suis Paris" on the screen, in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks five days earlier.

"I was very happy they did that for my country," said Sidney. "I am based near Paris – it could have been us."

Sidney's ride was Looping De Buissey, a 16-year-old Anglo Arab by Quercus Du Maury whom he acquired in 2010 while he was working as Mark Todd's stable jockey. The pair were successful at three-star, finishing 13th at Saumur CCI3\* in 2011, before the 15.3hh grey suffered some leg problems.

"He always tries 100%, so I didn't want to break him," said Sidney, who retired the horse from eventing last year. "I'll keep him for these indoor derbys now – he's a magic pony for them. He's fast and careful and he loves to compete."

These indoor competitions for eventers, held over a mix of solid and knockdown fences at high-profile winter shows, attract a quality field of horses and riders and are gaining in prestige. The one in Stuttgart, the oldest and most famous, has served as inspiration for similar classes at shows such as Stockholm, Geneva and Bordeaux. The prizes are pretty impressive too – Sidney won a safari for his victory here, with €15,000 (£10,500) split between the placed riders.

The format favours experienced horses, who can cope with what third-placed Mark Todd described as "a rock



'A magic pony': Sidney Dufresne's 15.3hh Looping De Buissey excels over the indoor cross-country track to win by 0.03 of a second

Pictures by KH Frieler





Edited by  
**Pippa Roome**

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Runner-up Michael Jung on his Kentucky CC14\* winner FischerRocana FST

concert atmosphere". The warm-up was a few minutes' walk away, so horses and riders had their final wait in a quiet, dark car park, before being catapulted down a tunnel and through a curtain into the brightly lit stadium, pumping with music and a capacity crowd.

It was also clear in Stuttgart that the more seasoned horses were able to lock on to the fences more quickly and so help their riders in speeding round the course.

"You do need a horse with a fair bit of mileage – they're not used to seeing all those fences in a small space," added Mark. "Sidney's horse was amazing, these competitions suit sharp little horses."

The New Zealander's own mount was Sir Peter Vela's NZB Land Vision, who has been sparsely competed since winning Badminton 2011 due to niggling leg problems. Although Mark has not discounted bringing him back to eventing proper, it is likely he will be saved for arena competitions as well as enjoying some dressage and showjumping with the rider's wife Carolyn.

Second place went to another four-star winner, this year's Kentucky victor FischerRocana FST, ridden by Michael Jung. The German superstar's precise, calm riding left him just 0.03 of a second slower than Sidney (79.1 seconds).



Mark Todd and former Badminton winner NZB Land Vision take third

Mark was 0.32 of a second further back, but also incurred four seconds for knocking fence 14 down, although it did not affect his final placing.

### The bogey fence

THE 21-fence track included showjumps and solid fences such as a water, which was crossed in both directions, a bank, an owl hole and several angled questions.

Britain's Fiona Breach on Cartoon IV (see box, above) was third to go and the first rider to really put down a target, clocking 87.09 seconds including a four-second penalty for having the green and yellow oxer at fence 14 down. This fence was jumped straight across the arena off a fairly tight turn and soon became the bogey fence.

## ONE TO WATCH

### Fiona Breach

THE 33-year-old finished as the best Brit in eighth on her nippy coloured horse Cartoon IV (below).

"He gets hot with the adrenalin of cross-country, so I didn't know if he'd cope with this atmosphere or would just run blind, but he didn't at all," said Fiona, who had one messy moment when the horse bounced through a one-stride distance at the offset hedges (fences 18 and 19). "He's clever with his feet and gets me out of trouble."

Cartoon is a 10-year-old Irish sport horse by Cavalier Two For Joy out of a Touchdown mare. Fiona hopes to contest her first four-star at Luhmühlen next year with Cartoon and to do more indoor cross-country.

"It was a long way to go for 90 seconds – it took me 19 hours door to door – but it was fun," she said.

Fiona runs a livery yard and has 10 horses to event from her base in Shamley Green, Surrey.



"I'm not sure if the flashing banners round the side of the arena took his attention or if he was in cross-country mode so wasn't as sharp as he should have been. He just breathed on it," said Fiona.

Germany's Freja Füllgräbe and Oje Oje, the 2011 young rider European champions at Blair, recorded a neat round, again with one down, to slip ahead of Fiona and net eventual fifth, behind her compatriot Andreas Ostholt on the consistent three-star mare Pennsylvania 28.

For Britain, Laura Collett had fence 14 down in an otherwise good performance with Nick

How and Keith Scott's Mr Bass, who is only seven. They finished in 11th place.

The final Brit was Gemma Tattersall, who was last to go on Charlotte Huggett and Sue Johnstone's Tropique, but she had a run-out at the second part of the angled skinny hedge question (fences 11 and 12) that followed the bank.

The same fate befell the rider who preceded Gemma, Germany's Ingrid Klimke on Parmenides 4. **H&H**

### RESULTS

Indoor derby: – 1, Looping De Buissy (S Dufresne) FRA 79.1; 2, FischerRocana FST (M Jung) GER 79.13; 3, NZB Land Vision (M Todd) NZL 83.45; 8, Cartoon IV (F Breach) GBR 87.09; 11, Mr Bass (L Collett) GBR 88.98.



RACING



Cue plays  
trump card



Edited by  
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HAYDOCK, ASCOT

Cue Card shows he is back to his best – winning the Betfair Chase under Paddy Brennan

## Haydock Park and Ascot

20–22 November

By Marcus Armytage

**I**F victory in Wetherby's Charlie Hall Chase at the start of the month suggested that Cue Card was over the problem which hampered his breathing last season – then Saturday's Betfair Chase confirmed it. He galloped all over Silviniaco Conti to win the race for the second time in three years.

This is the season of comebacks with Sprinter Sacre, Bobs Worth, More Of That, Sir Des Champs – and even the singer Adele – all returning from spells in the wilderness. Not only does Colin Tizzard's popular nine-year-old appear to be back, he looked better than ever as he beat the Paul Nicholls-trained favourite seven lengths under Paddy Brennan at Haydock.

Indeed it was so impressive that he now looks a major player for Kempton's Christmas showpiece, the King George VI Chase, despite not having come closer than second in three previous attempts.

He is now the only horse that can win Jockey Club Racecourses' £1m bonus for jumping's triple crown – the Betfair Chase, King George and Gold Cup – which does not look impossible.

On Saturday, Brennan let Noel Fehily on Silviniaco Conti bowl along in front and moved up to join him in front halfway down the back. However, after being out-jumped at the last fence in the back straight, it gave Brennan a chance to sit and fill Cue Card's lungs up on the home turn.

This time even Silviniaco Conti's jumping could not keep him in the battle, and Cue Card cruised past going to the third last and had the luxury of sauntering home without having had a particularly hard race.

"It's lovely to have him back," said Tizzard. "We thought Wetherby was brilliant, but we were getting the conditions of the race. Today he was taking them all on and has done it really well. The race was set up for him. We wanted to take on Silviniaco Conti in the past but



Picture by Racingfotos.com



## I OWE IT TO

### Laser surgery and a yard with a view

COLIN TIZZARD has put Cue Card's return to form down to two things: the correction of a trapped epiglottis and a new yard for his horses.

Two weeks before Cheltenham last season, he suddenly found that Cue Card (pictured at home with his trainer) was struggling to get up the all-weather gallop, which he usually tanked up. So he whisked him off to equine breathing specialist Ben Brain. He diagnosed that the flap of skin below the epiglottis, which stops food going down the windpipe, was blocking air from getting through – so the skin was removed by laser.

"He was only out of work five days," he recalled. "He met Don Cossack at Aintree where he didn't run too badly, then he came in a month early this summer."

But instead of combining the horses and dairy herd at Venn Farm, Dorset, Tizzard decided to convert an old heifer unit, Spurrils Farm, at the top of the gallop into a new yard and improved the light and ventilation. At Venn, without the horses, he has increased the size of the dairy herd.

"The plan had been to separate the two businesses," he explained.

"Venn has done us fantastically all my life but when you walk into the new place it smells much cleaner and fresher. It's on top of a hill rather than in a dip and it's germ-free at the moment.

"When you compare the two places there is no comparison. We didn't have a winner until the third week of October but now we've had 12 – and we've won with six or seven. We couldn't get a win out last year, so that tells its own story."



we used him as a pacemaker today. We let him do all the work and drag us to the second last.

"That's class for you. They say class is permanent, form is temporary. We've had to deal with his little problems and now he's back to his very best; it's fantastic for us. There's no reason not to go to Kempton now," he added.

"That Coneygree is a damn good horse but he could set it up for a bit for us by towing us along for three miles. If Cue Card is in the same form as he is now he'd run in the Gold Cup. That's the ultimate race and he's proved he stays."

It would be unfair to say that Brennan's career has stagnated since he last won the race, in 2010, on his Gold Cup winner Imperial Commander.

The winners have kept ticking over but he certainly has not ridden a horse that's got him dreaming of another Gold Cup, as Cue Card must have done on Saturday.

"I knew going to Haydock I wouldn't swap him, and I wouldn't swap him for the King George either," said the jockey.

"We were worried about the ground but it didn't matter what the ground was or the competition, he was unbeatable today. He's learning to settle, which is why he has a chance of getting the Gold Cup trip."

### His own worst enemy

VAUTOUR was the main attraction at Ascot on the same afternoon and he produced a 1¾-length victory over Ptit Zig in the Stella Artois 1965 Chase.



Celebrations: Fruity O'Rooney wins a handicap chase at Ascot under Jamie Moore

He is one of Cue Card's principal rivals for Kempton and indeed the favourite for the King George and Gold Cup largely on one performance: his clear-cut victory in last season's JLT Chase at Cheltenham.

Having not run since Cheltenham, he was entitled to be a bit keen and was probably his own worst enemy early on. But he lost concentration going down to Swinley Bottom and walked through the last fence down the hill, bringing about the rare sight of Ruby Walsh hailing a cab.

After that, instead of popping away, he used his ample scope a bit more and when Ptit Zig started putting on pressure



Main attraction: Ireland's Vautour and Ruby Walsh beat Ptit Zig in the Stella Artois 1965 Chase at Ascot

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## RIDE OF THE WEEK

Bryan Cooper

IT is probably the first occasion that a jockey riding a faller has won this accolade. Cooper's quick thinking almost certainly saved Robbie Power – when his mount Gunnery Sergeant brought down Power on Neverushacon in the novices' hurdle at Gowran.

In a million to one chance, Power was hung up by his leg in the stirrup when his horse got up. Cooper grabbed the reins of Neverushacon before he could gallop off and it still took six men the best part of a minute to free Power from his predicament.



Ciara Fry with Rock On Ruby and her daughter, Ruby, named after the horse

going to the last, Walsh asked for and received a big one to seal a slightly unconvincing victory. It would be a bit mean to put Vautour's performance so much under the microscope. It is not his fault he is Gold Cup favourite despite never having raced over further than Saturday's 2m 5f.

He was only having his fifth start over fences so he is still entitled to be a bit of a novice occasionally. Willie Mullins certainly seemed happy enough and Walsh was pretty relaxed about it too.

And if owner Rich Ricci's assertion that he was "only half fit" is right, he will improve exponentially on this effort. He will need to step up considerably if he is to be a major player at Kempton, where the stronger pace may also suit him.

"It was a bit better than last week," joked Ricci, reflecting on Faugheen's first defeat, at Punchestown the previous Sunday. "I hope he's a Gold Cup horse. He jumped a bit left and hopefully he is the horse we think he is. He has the speed for two miles: Willie and Ruby think he can do anything between two miles and four. The King George will tell us a lot."

The same Ricci-Mullins-Walsh combination was also successful with Douvan, their latest Supreme Hurdle winner, at Navan on Sunday. He made his chasing debut in the same race in which Vautour had started off over fences 12 months ago, the Irish Stallions Farms EBF Beginners Chase and comfortably beat Rogue Trader 9½ lengths despite making his only mistake at the last.

### Krugermac makes a mint

IT takes a lot to hospitalise trainer Gary Moore, who was

one of the toughest jockeys when riding. But when he was double-barrelled earlier this month – cracking five ribs, puncturing a lung and bruising a kidney – he spent four nights in hospital.

His horses, however, have been running very well ever since. A Sandown treble on the day he was discharged was better than any painkiller and an Ascot double on Friday was another bonus.

Krugermac, a Kalanisi gelding related to Thisthatandtother and Carlingford Lough, lived up to his price tag in the Geotech Soil Stabilisation Maiden Hurdle, while Fruity O'Rooney got up on the line in the Spey From Speyside Distillery Chase.

At £185,000 – a price tag earned by finishing second in a Punchestown Festival bumper last May – Krugermac is the most expensive horse Moore has ever trained and had been showing precisely zero at home. But Moore explained that Tony Martin, who had had a lot to do

with the horse, had been keen to buy him back and that had given him confidence.

"He's done exactly as they said he would," said the trainer. "He does nothing at home. He's a gorgeous specimen and not just a hurdler, he'll be a chaser one day."

Fruity O'Rooney used to be a Fontwell course specialist but appears to be bored with the venue now and was pulled up there the Sunday before this win.

"Jamie [Moore] said he was sulking there on Sunday," he explained after the 12-year-old had battled back to beat Loose Chips on the line. "He used to do all his winning at Fontwell but hasn't run a good race there for ages. Jamie pulled him up and said to run him again on Friday."

On Saturday it was Harry Fry who sent out multiple winners, when he saddled a treble at Ascot. Star among the trio was former champion hurdler Rock On Ruby, watched by Fry's own daughter Ruby, who won the Coral Ascot Hurdle.

## CUE CARD ROLL OF HONOUR

- 2010** Weatherbys Champion Bumper (Cheltenham Festival)
- 2012** Haldon Gold Cup (Exeter)
- 2013** Ascot Chase (Ascot)
- 2013** Ryanair Chase (Cheltenham Festival)
- 2013** Betfair Chase (Haydock Park)
- 2015** Charlie Hall Chase (Wetherby)
- 2015** Betfair Chase (Haydock)

"That was a good bit of fun," said Barry Geraghty after riding Rock On Ruby for the first time.

"When they got to me I thought, 'This isn't meant to be happening,' but four strides later it was never in doubt. He loves it when horses come to him." **H&H**



'A good bit of fun' – Barry Geraghty's first outing on Rock On Ruby produces a win in the Coral Ascot Hurdle

## COMMENT

Richard Johnson



## Old favourites back to their best

**I**T'S been a great couple of weeks for fans with the return of older horses in National Hunt racing.

It was fantastic to see Sprinter Sacre win at Cheltenham. A couple of years ago he was one of the most exciting horses we'd seen in a long time, but after his health scare it was uncertain if he'd have the same enthusiasm. I think he showed his old form, travelling and jumping well. It's great for the sport too; the atmosphere at the racecourse when he won was brilliant.

For Nico de Boinville, who rides Sprinter Sacre at home, it would have felt fantastic — although not without pressure — to ride him in a race. Nico has grasped the opportunity, and could have another good weekend coming up as he rides Coneygree in the Hennessy Gold Cup.

Cue Card also seems back to his best, winning the Betfair Chase, a race he won in 2013. He could be a Gold Cup horse — he's now won the first leg of the new triple crown (which boasts a £1m bonus) so if he wins the King George VI, I expect he'll go to Cheltenham in March. He seems in good heart and is staying well; you couldn't help but be impressed.

Bobs Worth won a couple of weeks ago and Rock On Ruby was in front at Ascot this weekend too — it's great to have all these class horses still around. That's what National Hunt is all about, seeing the top names performing well year after year.

### Thumbs up for sideshows

RACING does its best to attract the crowds, providing value for money and a good day out. The Clydesdale race at Exeter is always entertaining. I was too late to ride in it this year but the lads said it was a laugh, with James Best winning.

AP McCoy tried out dressage at Cheltenham riding Charlotte Dujardin's grand prix national champion Barolo.

He told me his legs had never ached so much in 20 years of racing as after 30 minutes of dressage. It's amazing how two disciplines in the same sport can be so different. You think riding is pretty universal but it's harder than it looks — the good riders just make it look easy.

It was good for the public to see him try something new though.

Talking of AP, he must have had a bang on the head now he's retired, saying women jockeys should get a 3lb claim — he would not have given away a weight allowance if he was still riding!

The sport is very competitive to get rides whether you're male or female. As I've said before, there are more and more good female jockeys coming through, and times and attitudes are changing. Girls are more than capable of winning — if they work as hard as the lads, they don't need the claim.

### Bobs is the one to beat

I'VE been light on winners recently, but Copper Kay ran really well at Cheltenham; hopefully she'll be one to watch out for.

I ride Fingal Bay in the Hennessy. He ran really well finishing second at Kempton earlier this month and was a Grade One winner a couple of years ago.

He only carries 10 stone though, so I'll be eating kids' size portions this week. It is harder making those weights, so I'll have to try not to be too grumpy, eat slightly less and lose a couple of pounds in the sauna.

It's a competitive race with Bobs Worth and Coneygree. However, Bobs Worth as a Gold Cup and Hennessy winner on 10st 7lb looks well treated by the handicapper and will take all the beating. **H&H**

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www.horse4sales.co.uk



### Super Grey hunter / allrounder gelding

Height: 17.3hh

Age: 9 years

Price: £6,000

**Description:** Irish sports Horse type, super special horse. Kind and easy to manage. White (pink skin) with leopard spots viable when clipped. Confident jumper. Fabulous out hunting. Nicely schooled would do well as an eventer.

07775854474

arabellawhelan@yahoo.co.uk

### TEAM CHASE / HUNTER / POINTER

Height: 17hh Age: 8yo

Price: £1,500

**Description:** Bay mare, very well bred with Primitive Rising & Saddlers Wells. Has evented to Intermediate level but would suit a Team Chase, Hunting, Pointer life. Sold from the field as owner is expecting.

07557 951 911 katielimagee@outlook.com



### Talented Irish Sports Horse

Price: £9,500

**Description:** Quality Irish Sports horse, schoolmaster who has been professionally produced and successfully competed by teenager. Jumped up to Foxhunter (Grade C) and now working at Advanced Medium dressage with changes established; cross country schooled and confidently jumps ditches, hedges, drops, water etc. Genuine, kind-hearted and sane, who is easy to do in all ways.

07980016465

maxinerobbins3@gmail.com



### Super Blood Sports Horse

Height: 16.3 hh Age: Rising 6 yrs mare Price: £10,000

Location: Nr Horsham, W Sussex

**Description:** Lovely homebred. Recently jumped several double clears BN and Discovery, proving bold and careful. Trained well Cross country. Lovely looking mare, blood type with loads of stamina and excellent breeding. Sadly for sale due to lack of room & time; ready to go out competing now. Easy, uncomplicated horse to do

07919284000

lauralloyduk@yahoo.com

### Black gelding by Hoek's Ludo

Height: 17hh Age: 5 yo

Price: EPOA

**Description:** 2010 black gelding, Sire: HOEK'S LUDO Dam: RENES QUARRY CLOVER Has plenty of experience in all districts. Has competed in showjumping X-Country and working hunter. Excellent temperament all round.

07729934753 outlaw789@hotmail.com



### Gelding Hunter/Team Chaser/Great Hack

Height: 17.1hh Age: 8yo

Price: £1,999 Description:

Sound, vice free & clean limbed.

Hunted by a lady this season, a

good careful jumper, not strong

or silly. Has XC schooled & would

make great team chaser/hunter.

Can be seen & tried in W. Suss. Price reflects

market not quality of horse. 07548 365 269 /

01342 529 421 wplsmith@gmail.com



### Showjumper / Eventer

Height: 16.3hh Age: 4yo

Price: £15,000

**Description:** Bay gelding by Shannondale Sarco ex Atlantic Cruise, professionally produced in top showjumping yard in Ireland. Registered with SJI with points.

07712 875 062 glenroad@hotmail.co.uk

### Wonderful Friend Brave Geld- ing for Everyone by Grannus

Height: 17hh Age: 6yo

Price: £2,800 Location: Poland

**Description:** Good movement in

3 walks, good dressage prospect

& very nice jumper, jumps well,

brave & nice to ride. He is now

basic level but is smart & works very well. He has passport &

fresh vet-check done. More info, movies & pics please email.

We live in Poland. Possible transport to UK.

+48 500 718 592 btmstall@gmail.com



### Gentle Giant

Height: 17.2hh

Age: 5yo

Price: £3,500

**Description:** Gelding

for sale! Sire west

coast cavalier Dam

regal sting. This is a

very gentle easy going

horse that is a pleasure to work with he has a

great temperament that only wants to please.

00353 879 088 986 donaluck@gmail.com



### Outstanding Sports

Height: 17.2hh Age: 6yo Price: £10,000

**Description:** Tri-colour Sports Horse gelding with Louella breeding. An outstanding horse that is brave and forward going but snaffle mouthed. Hunted with the Ross Harriers and South Herriford, proving to be bold and safe. Competed in 4+5yr old classes BE. Excellent to hack out alone or in company. Easy to shoe/clip etc. Ladies or gents ride. Fully vaccinated.

07974 419 385

dave@davecoautoengineering.co.uk

### Ready Made Hunter

Price: £9,500

**Description:** Brilliant Proven Ladies/Gents Hunter. Good looking, safe, tough, straight forward. Hunted past 3 seasons with Cottesmore over Lincolnshire & Leicestershire country. Low mileage. Can be viewed at livery yard.

07944 710527 or 07979 593556 owner (P)

skyledesign@burtts.co.uk



### Gran prix showjumper for sale

Price: £50

**Description:** QQ maple rouge is a son of the international french showjumping sire Quidam de Revel and his mare is Tiuna Princess a daughter of the international show jumper Manila from the Romino x Fantus line.

07768759390

pierodellanno@gmail.com



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[www.irishhorsegateway.ie](http://www.irishhorsegateway.ie)**Talented Coloured****Height:** 17.3hh**Age:** 6yo**Price:** £7,500**Description:**

Stunning coloured ISH, a real gent who has been lovingly produced in a family home. Very agile & scopey, SJ Dressage, XC, WH, SH. Seriously genuine horse. Huge potential. Call for details. **07960 167 513 / 07890 918 216** [stuarthassall@live.co.uk](mailto:stuarthassall@live.co.uk)

**Genuine Allrounder****Height:** 16.3hh**Age:** 12yo**Price:** £10,500**Description:**

Perryn became the BE100U18 National Champion in 2014 & qualified for Badminton 2015, 17 BE D/C & 8 top 3 placings. Double clears & placings at BSJA foxhunter level, seasoned hunter, no vices. **01908 337 971** [simon.hayley@tesco.net](mailto:simon.hayley@tesco.net)

**ABSOLUTE GENTLEMAN****Height:** 16.1hh **Age:** 10yo **Price:** £10,000

**Description:** Stunning Black RID gelding by Castana x Grey Macha. Gezzer started out as a SJ with 62 pts, he has winnings up to 1.20m. He has jumped all the best country with the North Shropshire. Doesn't get silly or strong, great with hounds, would suit a master or a huntsman well, or be happy doing gates at the back with the kids. He loves his hunting & is absolutely born to it. Gezzer has a super level of schooling & works in a nice soft outline, he moves well with a very good rhythm & a super balanced canter. He is great to hack & handle, loves fuss & attention. 5\* home essential 100% box, shoe, clip etc.

**07919 167 166** [taylormadeliveries@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:taylormadeliveries@hotmail.co.uk)

**15h 3ins -  
16h 2ins**

**'CHECKETS'****Height:** 16 hands plus**Age:** 7 years**Price:** £5,500**Location:**

Worcestershire

**Description:**

Homebred by Alflora. BSJA winnings approx. £100.00. 5th at Solihull R/C Unaffiliated Event. Won & Placed ROR Classes. Good on the road. No vices, Easy to do. **07775 670 644**

**Extremely nice****Height:** 16.1HH**Age:** 5yo**Price:** £3500

**Description:** Lovely, attractive rose grey gelding. Reg ISH, breeding goes back to King of Diamond on both sides. He is half brother to top eventer Darcy II. A lovely, genuine horse with nice temperament, presently ridden by 13 year olds. Hunted and whipped into date. This horse must have a great future as an eventer/SJ/Hunter. **07808475175 / 01994484294**

**IRISH SPORT HORSE****Height:** 16hh**Age:** 6yrs**Price:** £5000

**Description:** Ch. gelding. Fun no nonsense attitude bold x co. Hunted. Willing to do any job.

**07878673624****Bay gelding****Height:** 15.3hh**Age:** Rising 5 years**Price:** £2,500

**Description:** Reg Irish Sport by Clonee Cruising, dam Pearl Of Diamond by Laughtons Flight. Breeding includes Cruising and King of Diamonds. Well-bred gentleman who is very sweet to ride and handle. Well used and has done lots of XC and training shows. Schooled well over X Country jumps, proving brave and easy. Make lovely eventer /competition / top Class all rounder / hunter. No vices. **07778414739 (No texts please)**

**Proven Superstar!****Height:** 16hh **Age:** 6yrs ISH mare**Price:** £7,750

**Description:** Superb temperament, stunning looks and spectacularly talented without the quirks, done it all, proven hunter, evented, so easy an absolute delight.

Video: [http://youtu.be/-R2x7\\_X10L4](http://youtu.be/-R2x7_X10L4)**07831268190**[grahamsugden@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:grahamsugden@yahoo.co.uk)**Fulwoods Top Gear****Price:** £3000 ono **Location:** Nottingham

**Description:** Top class grey yearling gelding, born 2014 by CHAPS graded stallion Lucky Diamond who has qualified for HOYS 5 times and qualified for Olympia this year out of a mare by grade A SJ Grannex. To make 16.2hh. First and champion National Foal of the Year Show as a sport horse. Excellent conformation, combines extravagant movement with great limbs. Well handled, wormed. Outstanding prospect. Full brother awarded a BEF Futurity higher first premium for SJ and county show champion in hand. **07890 895733** [www.fulwoodstud.co.uk](http://www.fulwoodstud.co.uk)

**Hunter / Allrounder****Height:** 16.2hh **Age:** 8yo **Price:** £5,500

**Description:** Dexter is a stunning bright bay gelding. He has been hunted in Ireland as a younger horse as well as cubbing/hunting over here this season. Smart on the flat & has done lots of SJ & XC schooling proving to be very straight forward, also competed in unaffil. SJ & DR. Very good to hack alone or in co. & good in traffic. He has a fantastic temperament & is brilliant to clip, box, shoe etc. Will travel in trailer or horsebox, no preference. Sad sale for this sweet horse- priced to sell.

**07966 191 923** [vicdennis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vicdennis@hotmail.co.uk)**ONE NOT TO BE MISSED!****Height:** 16.1hh **Age:** 10yo **Price:** £35,000

**Description:** Bay gelding, excellent sports horse breeding. Exceptional temp & the ability to go to the top! Having only started eventing this year he is low mileage but has racked up some excellent results including a win at Novice & DC CIC\*. Would make a fantastic junior/YR horse but also has scope to go on. 3 correct & flashy paces regularly in the lead after dressage. No vices easy to do in all ways, shaffle mouthed. Genuine reason for sale.

**07773 629 503** [coralkeeneventing@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:coralkeeneventing@hotmail.co.uk)



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## DRESSAGE / EVENT

**Height:** 16hh

**Age:** 4 yr old

**Price:** £5000

**Description:** Dk Bay geld. Would do straight dressage, 2nd in first outing but also has excellent jump for competition. Sensible temperament.

**07878673624**



## Talented dressage / allrounder

**Age:** 10 yr old **Price:** £6000 ono **Location:** N Yorkshire

**Description:** Athletic, stunning and beautiful 10yr old gelding. Well known Irish breeding, by Limbo hill, G Sire Clover hill and King of Diamonds Lines. A dream to ride on the flat, outstanding movement, well established with countless wins at novice dressage, winter champion, WHs many championships. Has good record BE, many placings and qualified RfS. Hacks out alone, in company, a kind chap to do with in all respects. Same home 7 yrs. this is a very very sad sale genuine reason. To 5\* home only. Home priority. **07951740998**

## Bold, Brave, Tough Hunter

**Height:** 16.2hh

**Age:** 10yo

**Price:** £4,000

**Description:**

black gelding. Scopey & tough.

Hunted Ireland, Belvoir, Brocklesby, Bedale and Zetland. Good to do in all ways, never sick or sorry. Hobdayed as 5yo.

**07949 924 610 slhorner@hotmail.co.uk**



## Stunning gelding

**Height:** 16.2hh

**Age:** 7yo

**Price:** £7,500

**Description:** Gorgeous with 3 correct, straight paces & an active hind leg. Forward going & a pleasure to handle in all ways. Competing novice BD - receiving lovely comments.

**07738 617 553**

**elisabethswann26@gmail.com**



## Super allrounder

**Height:** 16.1hh **Age:** 12yo

**Price:** £4,600

**Description:** Suit RC home, done a bit of everything in a snaffle, he will not hack alone, can be nappy. Good in co. to hack, loves to jump & fantastically well schooled on the flat with established changes. Suit mother/daughter share/RC home, can be seen & tried at livery with fantastic trial facilities. **07929 661 075 prestigequestrian@hotmail.co.uk**



## Quality allrounder

**Height:** 16hh

**Age:** 6yo

**Price:** £4,500

**Description:** Bay mare, reg SHB. Good to clip, shoe, box & handle. Has competed unaff dressage, SJ, HT & ODE. Hacks alone & in company. Ready to go on. Video & pics available.

**07710 716796 hels1@hotmail.co.uk**



## Stunning Black Cob

**Height:** 15.3hh **Age:** 8yo

**Price:** £3,750

**Description:** Albert!

Cob gelding Quality in every way needed, been ridden by all types of riders, including RDA. Hacks alone & in co., lovely boy with great manners been in the same home since he was a yearling, pleasure to have around, sound & vice free. **07468 458 322 chrisdyson1995@hotmail.com**



## Gorgeous bay mare

**Height:** 15.3hh **Age:** 6yo

**Price:** £1,425

**Description:** Mother/daughter share, Rosie is good in traffic, flashy on the flat, has XC & show jumped. Ideal for RC or affiliated eventing but would be equally happy on fun rides. Has raced so is eligible for ROR classes & is sure to do well. Goes in a snaffle, easy to shoe, trim, groom etc. **07970 592161 capellatodd\_loyd@hotmail.com**



## Beautiful easy gelding

**Height:** 16.1hh **Price:** £6,750

**Description:** Igano, gelding born 2008, Egano van het Blokenhof (Nonstop) x Tales x. This fantastic gelding will give everyone his heart, he is unbelievable well behaved, very laid back and is the sweetest horse you can imagine. Igano is good to shoe, box, clip, hack (alone and in company), load (trailer and lorry) and has no vices. **07957693647 jmequestrianservices@outlook.com**



## Fantastic RoR Project

**Height:** 15.3hh

**Age:** 8yo

**Price:** £4,000 ONO

**Description:** Jet black TB gelding. Successful flat racer. Outstanding conformation, 3 very good paces, rhythmical, balance. Schools, jumps, hacks. Perfect gentleman. Always try to please. Highly recommended. **07748 214 497 pace.eventing@hotmail.co.uk**



# 14h 3ins - 15h 2ins

## Allrounder - ideal PC/BE/BS

**Height:** 15.1hh

**Age:** 7 yrs

**Price:** £4000

**Description:** The Romany Runner lovingly known as Denny, Irish gelding has taken my teenager daughter from jumping 2ft3 to starting affiliated jumping, easily carrying her around 1m technical tracks unfazed by fillers, water trays etc. He has also taken my daughter from being a nervous nelly xc, to jumping xc courses at BE90 size again unfazed by water ditches etc. Exceedingly honest bold and very forgiving! We have also done local shows and events from ridden showing, to working hunters, hunter trials and qualified for the show jumping sunshine tour. Denny is the ultimate pony club / fun Allrounder who has potential for BE. He is always up for it, pleasantly forward going yet always ridden in a snaffle for every sphere. He is a good hunter and enjoys fun rides. He has no vices and travels in a horse box or trailer my daughter does every with him herself, he is very good to hack both alone or in company and is fabulous in the heaviest of traffic. Only for sale as my daughter is now ready for a more technical competition horse.

**07753169083**



## Teenagers / Small Adults Allrounder

**Height:** 15hh **Age:** 9yo **Price:** £3950 ono inc tack and rugs

**Location:** N Yorks

**Description:** Talented 9yo Irish bred blue and white coloured. Smart, compact mare, works sweetly on the flat with rhythmic straight paces, competed local dressage. She loves to jump, scopey and careful, happily popping 1.05m. Will easily BS. Very genuine XC. Done all PC activities inc PC camp. Currently hunting with a teenager and S.J. Good to hack out, snaffle mouthed. Genuine reason for sale of fantastic mare who has so much to give. **07951740998 (No txts please)**



## Stunning 2 year old

**Height:**

Should make 15.1hh

**Age:** 2 year old

**Price:** £2000

**Description:** Bay Morgan colt, lovely temperament, great paces. Well handled and easy.

**01981 500488**



## Super allrounder

**Height:** 16.2hh

**Age:** 7yo

**Price:** £15,000

**Description:** Dartans Greenlough Tom, Irish gelding, 3 super paces, successfully evented up to 1\* level, a bold jump & a super xc horse. He has also hunted proving to have good manners. Easy to have around, no vices. Hacks alone & in co. **07787 125 238 mel\_monty999@hotmail.com**





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\*Horse & Hound Reader Survey 2013

**Irish Gentleman****Height:** 16hh **Age:** 9yrs**Price:** £2,950**Location:** Kent

**Description:** Teddy 9yrs very nicely and correctly put together, with a fantastic kind nature He would be ideal as fun allrounder as he is safe, sensible and reliable and will instil confidence into a nervous rider but nevertheless he is a classy and talented and has would make a super little pony club / RC or competition horse also He works very nicely on the flat he is not strong, not spooky, yet offers a simple push button ride up and down the gears and is always ridden in a snaffle and is pleasantly forward going. He works nicely from the leg to hand and listens to the riders aids very flashy, with a steady canter. Teddy has a ton of experience cross country training, Hunter Trials and has hunted 5 full seasons, he will jump ditches, rails, water etc and is very level headed to jump He has also competed in some unaffiliated show jumping competitions and is currently jumping double clears competitively at 1.10 classes he would affiliated BS straight away and be a winner and has pot. for BE. Super hack, both alone and in company and is well behaved in all traffic from buses to farm machines. He is well behaved in open spaces and does not get fizzy, no vices No lumps or bumps, he does very occasionally weave but this is only very occasionally and is reflected in his price.

**07872318245****14h 2ins  
& under****Super Connemara****Height:** 13.2hh **Age:** 5yo**Price:** £3,000

**Description:** Won & placed showing, in hand, ridden & WHP. Jumps coloured & XC fences, good paces to do a DR test. Has been hunted this & last season. Good in all traffic, clip, shoe & lorry or trailer, no vices. Lovely temperament. Fit & ready to go, ideal for family or small adult. **01300 345 327 / 07788 914 814 ren.007@hotmail.com**

**Appaloosa X Mare****Height:** 14.2hh **Age:** 9 yo (2006) **Price:** £2,900

**Description:** Dotty is an All-rounder competition pony, 9 yo (2006) She is well-schooled and goes in a lovely soft outline. She is light and responsive. Very easy to handle at all times, box, clip, shoe, bath, not mareish and excellent in traffic. She can be difficult to catch in large fields She is forward-going without being too sharp. Pops a nice fence - show jumping or cross-country. This is a regrettable sale, she will make someone a fantastic pony as she is talented and genuine.

**valerie.morley52@btinternet.com****Stunning Connemara****Height:** 14.2hh**Age:** 8yr old**Price:** £3,000

**Description:** Queenie (Landslow Pearly Queen) Grey mare. Queenie is sadly for sale as she is not suitable for my teenage daughter so we are looking for a 5\* home for her. We purchased her in May 2015 after she was sold to us as an ideal teenagers PC pony. She has suffered with a sore pelvis which is now better after some acupuncture and not causing her any more issues.

**07796196444****kingspointpointers01@gmail.com****Safe, Irish Cobs****Height:** 15hh**Age:** rising 6yo

**Description:** Beautiful chestnut mare with masses of flaxen mane and tail. A very sweet mare who will hack out alone / in co. all day long. Schools nicely, just needs polishing. **07446 006 510 equipoistherapy@gmail.com**

**Versatile All Rounder****Height:** 16hh**Age:** 7yo**Price:** £6,000

**Description:** Homebred gelding competed up to 1.20m show jumping. Won BS Newcomers area points championship 2014. 466 BS points. Won IDHS RID Performance Awards. Hunting with Four Burrow. Shown County level. **07553 186797 kate55@btinternet.com**

**Perfect Pony****Height:** 14.2hh **Age:** 8yo **Price:** £4,500

**Description:** Good to hack alone or in co. on moor & on roads, done all PC activities camps, bold XC, careful SJ, well mannered carrying a sidesaddle, no vices lumps bumps or issues, correct strong conformation & movement good to box, shoe, clip, catch etc. Excel M&M WHP, A very honest & sweet pony which is very hard sort to find only sold as moving abroad.

**07837 923 722****suzcovemail@googlemail.com****Beautiful coloured mare****Height:** 15.1hh**Age:** 5yo**Price:** £2,850

**Description:** Very sweet tobiano mare. Bold & willing with a great attitude to her work. Good to catch, shoe & box. Green but ready to go on. Great potential, will make super all rounder. **07834 423 380 jennyshannon@hotmail.co.uk**

**Perfect Connemara Gelding****Height:** 15.2hh **Age:** 6 years old **Price:** £4,250

**Description:** Genuinely a hard type to find!! Quality & safe all in one!! 6 years old registered Connemara gelding Edward is a lovely chap, very easy and very genuine. Very sensible horse would suit any rider, would suit novice. Done xc, SJ, showing & hunted. Perfect to clip, shoe, box. Up to date with teeth, back, shoes, clip. **07854469156 / 07468458322 chrisdyson1995@hotmail.com**

**Thursden Vallye Leonardo****Height:** Approximately 14hh to 14.2hh**Price:** EPOA

**Description:** Futurity Graded Elite and top sports pony foal in 2015 to mature, gray colt by showjumping pony Rotherwood Signature out of only full sister to Thursden Vallye Raphael PSG Dressage pony and prolific winner in show ring both hand and under saddle. Leonardo has the same beautifully correct conformation and movement as Raphael. **01282436091 cath@herdhouse.co.uk**

**Smart competition mare****Price:** £4,500

**Description:** Currently competing in; local shows; showing, dressage, hunter trials and show jumping. Lil is now ready for a serious competition home, will affiliate with ease. Great scope over fences, expressive paces. Lovely natured mare great to do in all ways inc; handle, shoe, clip, box. **07946491897 georgina-mb@hotmail.com**



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**Hunting / PC Allrounder****Height:** 14.2hh **Age:** 8yo**Price:** £5,250 inc tack and rugs

**Description:** Irish Sport horse gelding. Loves his hunting with Foxhounds and Bloodhounds. Good to Hack alone and in company. Has done Mini eventing and show jumping teams and Novice area dressage teams. C squad at BRYDS. Good to clip, box, shoe etc. Rider moving onto horse.

**01489 860 959 cjmcmillan736@btinternet.com**





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## Adorable Talented Tobiano

**Price:** £2,950

**Description:** Traditional show cob. Superb confirmation/paces. Responsive, snaffle ride. Good flat work (ready for dressage). Fantastic jump (wins or placed every outing, excellent hack/alone/company/traffic/X.C Sweetest nature. Loving, knowledgeable, home and rider.  
**07736803987**

## Donkeys

## Two Donkeys for Sale

**Age:** 11 & 3 yo

**Price:** £1,000

**Description:** Two jenny donkeys for sale, must stay together. 11 and 3 years old. Very sweet natured but can be a little shy until they get to know you.  
**07796 177 900**  
[lucyseymour2012@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lucyseymour2012@hotmail.co.uk)



## Super Competition Pony

**Height:** 14.2hh

**Age:** 5 yr old

**Price:** £7000

**Location:** East Sussex

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**Height:** 14.2hh **Age:** 4yo

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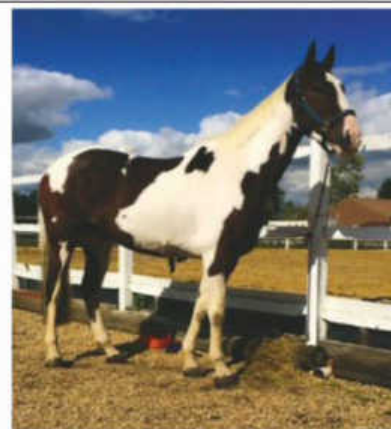
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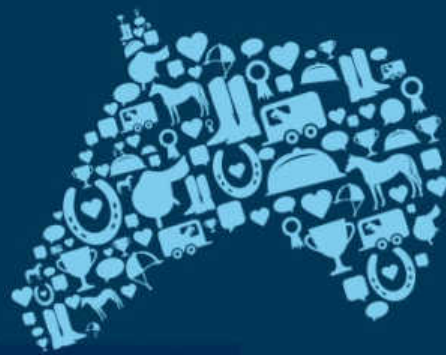
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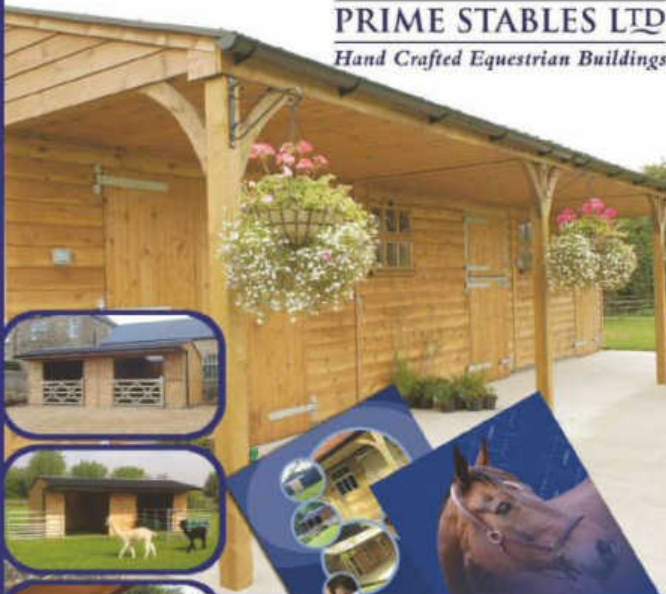





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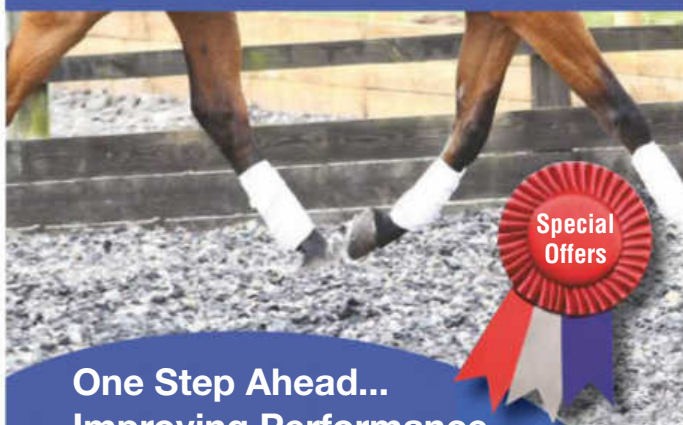
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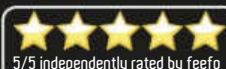
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# The horse that made me

Blyth Tait on his brilliant world champion partner, Messiah, who secured the New Zealander's career in the UK

I used all my resources to come over to the UK from New Zealand with Messiah in 1989 to prepare for the World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Stockholm the following year. I never imagined I would be able to stay and honestly thought that Carole Byles (Messiah's owner) and I would have to sell him after the Games.

Messiah was as volatile and complicated as he was genuine, and a brilliant athlete. If I knew then what I know now, I probably wouldn't have chosen him. He was incredibly scopey, as tough as old boots and a phenomenal galloper, but he had his own technique and was always a handful. I had total faith in him though, and he never let me down.

Back then, it was a big deal to let your horse go to the other side of the world and I'm really grateful to Carole for that.

He finished second at Badminton in 1990, which secured our WEG selection where he gave me the best ride I ever had on him to win team and individual gold.

The bigger and more technical the course, as the Barcelona Olympics was in 1992 (where he won individual bronze and team silver), the better he was. In my naivety I just expected him to go, and he did.

That win in Stockholm opened a lot of doors for me in terms of sponsors and more horses and enabled me to stay in the UK to make a real go of my career. Messiah retired in 1993 and lived out a long and happy retirement with Carole back in New Zealand. **H&H**

● NEXT WEEK: para dressage rider Lee Pearson

‘Messiah had his own technique and was always a handful, but he never let me down’



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